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Saipan Tribune

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75¢

CDA to suspend Lao Lao Resort QC

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority aims to suspend the tax relief currently afforded to Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, apparently out of the resort's failure to meet annual public benefit contributions in the last four or five years.

See CDA on Page 4

Ordnance use at FDM would jump 450 pct. under MITT

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Navy ordnance use on Farallon de Medinilla would increase some 450 percent per year in either action alter-

» Erosion impact studies remain hard to find

native laid out in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing draft environmental impact statement, for which a final version is due in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, it's unclear how or if federally requested studies on erosion impact for

current and increased bombings activity will be addressed.

Recently, satellite imagery and oblique photographs have shown significant changes to the morphology of Farallon de Medinilla, or FDM, a routine-bombing area leased to the U.S.

See ORDNANCE on Page 4

'I HAVE MY HUSBAND BACK'

Rota doctor takes first steps

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Rota Health Center's Dr. Francois Claassens took his first steps and spoke his first words to his wife and children last week after sustaining serious injuries in a brutal attack at his Rota residence, according to his wife, Evangeline Agtarap Claassen.

"Of course" were the doctor's words to his wife after regaining consciousness.

See DOCTOR on Page 4

DANCE FESTIVAL

Visiting Japanese dancers from the Tensuirin group perform with the Saipan Awaodori Team during Friday night's Saipan Awaodori Festival at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

JON PEREZ



Woman allegedly enticed minor to have sex with Roberto

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested last week a woman who allegedly enticed her then-15-year-old cousin to engage in sex in exchange for

cash with former acting director of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife Robert B. Roberto in April 2013.

Alexandra Castro Macabalo was taken to federal court on Friday morning for a bail hearing after the FBI arrested her based on a complaint charging her

with enticement of a minor to engage in prostitution and other sexual activity.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman released Macabalo on her own recognizance with some conditions, including an 8pm to 8am curfew.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 30 at 1:30pm.

Attorney Bruce Berline appeared as court-appointed counsel for Macabalo.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, as counsel for the U.S. government, did not oppose releasing Macabalo.

Backe stated that although Macabalo is accused of a very serious offense that carries a mandatory 10 years up to life in prison, she does not pose a flight risk, is not a danger to the community, and has children to care for.

FBI special agent Haejun Park stated in his affidavit that on July 23, 2013, and Aug. 8, 2013, FBI agents inter-

See WOMAN on Page 4

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Youth leaders in the CNMI were sworn in as members of the 15th Youth Congress.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Teen smoking goes down but the use of electronic cigarettes has boomed.

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LIFE & STYLE

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" is about a generational transfer in more ways than one.

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Local

OAG wants ex-Ranger's amended suit over guns dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the federal court to dismiss for insufficient service of process an amended lawsuit filed by former U.S. Army Ranger Paul Michael Murphy over the alleged confiscation of his firearms and ammunition in 2007.

Murphy attempted to personally serve process of the summons and the amended complaint upon the defendants in violation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, according to assistant attorney general James M. Zarones.

Zarones filed the motion last week as counsel for Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and Department of Finance Secre-

tary Larissa Larson.

Zarones pointed out that the court previously told Murphy that he may not personally serve the defendants with process.

In particular, Zarones said the court notified Murphy that he was not permitted to serve the summons himself.

However, he said, Murphy attempted to personally serve the defendants with the summons

and complaint in this case.

"Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure renders the service of the complaint insufficient," Zarones said.

Early this month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the CNMI government's motion to dismiss Murphy's \$5-million lawsuit.

Manglona, however, allowed Murphy to amend his complaint by April 20, 2015.

The judge said Murphy failed to sign his first amended complaint, although he signed the original complaint.

Manglona said Murphy also erred in naming the Commonwealth as the defendant in the caption, rather than DPS Commissioner Deleon Guerrero, as

he did in the pleadings.

Manglona said neither the Commonwealth nor Deleon Guerrero was properly served, in violation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

However, Manglona said, because Murphy is the plaintiff, he is precluded from serving his own process, and the service of the summons and complaint on Deleon Guerrero was ineffective.

The judge pointed out that Murphy is a *pro se*, non-lawyer litigant and it makes sense to give him the benefit of the doubt when he is tripped up by the legal profession's arcane rules.

In a *pro se* complaint or without a lawyer, Murphy, who is now a teacher, also asked the court to repeal the CNMI Weapons Control Act and all associated legislation, licensing, taxation, recording, administration, and processing.

Murphy said DPS withheld all his firearms and ammunition until the issuance of a firearms, ammunition, and explosive identification card on Sept. 20, 2007.

He said his two firearms were sent to the Guam Police Department armory for holding, while the ammunition is still being held by CNMI DPS Firearms Section.

Murphy said DPS had denied his repeated request to carry and possess his rifle and pistol.



JOEL D. PINAROC

Members of the 15th Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Youth Congress pose for a group photo after being sworn in at the House chamber on Capital Hill on Saturday.

Members of Youth Congress hold first session

Youth leaders from different schools in the CNMI were sworn in as members of the 15th Youth Congress on Saturday at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

The new Youth Congress members include Reynafe N. Aniga, representing Saipan Southern School; Kayjon T. Boadi, representing Kagman High School; Gerald K. Crisostomo, Jr., representing Tinian Jr./Sr. High School; William P. Hinson, representing Grace Christian Academy; Henry Kyle B. Hofschneider, representing Marianas Baptist Academy; Catherine Juneel C. Manglona, representing Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School; Thomas Lee A. Manglona II, representing Mount Carmel School; and

Roselyn B. Tanghal, representing Marianas High School.

After the taking their oaths as members of the Youth Congress, and designating a speaker, the youth senators immediately held their first session.

Youth senator Manglona, who was elected as Youth Congress speaker, presided over the session.

Manglona said one of the programs he will be pushing is more student participation in socio-civic activities. He said there is a need for more members of the youth to pitch in and help improve the community.

Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said his office will always be open to the young leaders, should they require his help.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) echoed Sablan, saying his office is open and that he is encouraging the youth leaders to work with lawmakers.

He said the role of the Youth Congress has become "very important."

The Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress was established by Public Law 8-27 and was repealed and re-enacted as Public Law 17-22.

The Youth Congress can act as a legislative body with the power to make rules, establish committees, hold hearings, pass resolutions, and prepare and pass bills, which will be forwarded to the Governor's Office and officers of the Legisla-

ture for disposition.

The Youth Congress is expected to serve as a training ground for the CNMI's future

leaders. It holds a youth conference within the Commonwealth at least once a year using its own budget. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

2 mariners rescued from remote island in Pacific



COURTESY PHOTO

Crew members from the cruise ship *Celebrity Solstice* rescue two sailors after their 37-foot sailing vessel sustained severe damage when it ran aground, stranding them on a small remote island near Malden Island, Kiribati. The men were en route to Tahiti from Lanai, Hawaii, when they ran aground on a coral reef in their vessel, *Hina Nui*.

HONOLULU—Two sailors are safe after their 37-foot sailing vessel sustained severe damage when it ran aground, stranding them on a small remote island near Malden Island, Kiribati.

The men were en route to Tahiti from Lanai, Hawaii, when they ran aground on a coral reef in their vessel, *Hina Nui*. One of the sailors contacted his wife via satellite phone to relay their distress. The men reported irreparable damage to the sailboat, but that they were safe and uninjured.

The wife contacted watchstanders at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination

Center Honolulu at 11:20pm, Wednesday.

Coast Guard watchstanders identified the nearby *Celebrity Solstice*, a 963-foot cruise ship, approximately 184 miles from the stranded mariners. The cruise ship agreed to divert course to rescue the two men.

The crew of the cruise ship identified a safe location on the western side of the island and communicated with the mariners using a VHF radio. The men hiked from the eastern tip of the island where the sailboat grounded, and met the rescue crew from the cruise ship. At approximately 10am, the men

were successfully transported back to the cruise ship.

The *Celebrity Solstice* is currently en route to its next port call to the Hawaiian Islands.

"The fact that these men were well prepared with an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon and a satellite phone contributed to their successful rescue," said Lt. j.g. Heidi Will, a search and rescue coordinator at the JRCC. "Mariners are advised to carry all appropriate safety equipment as maritime emergencies can occur quickly and without warning to even the most experienced individuals." **(USCG)**

DPS chief vows relentless operations vs burglars

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero has vowed that police will actively pursue burglars in the CNMI and bring them to the court.

"We are going after you and we are going to come after you relentlessly," said Deleon Guerrero in his message to burglars.

In an interview, the commissioner said they are going to work hard and spend a great deal of resources to apprehend burglars and bring them to justice.

He said there are way too many community members who have suffered for years be-

cause they became victims of burglary and theft.

"I for one will probably spend the next four hours just listing down the same people that I know who are victims of burglary," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said DPS is going to build the capacity of investigative function so that they have the necessary resources to go after burglars.

He said it would also help if both the prosecution and the court will look at these repeat offenders and send them to jail for longer periods of time.

He also hopes the Board of Parole will not release repeat offenders without having convincing rehabilitation to ensure that these persons

will not re-offend.

"We have been catching way too many burglars and have been putting them in jail and only to be released much too early," he lamented.

He said this is one of the chief reasons why they are actively pursuing drug offenders.

"The sad reality here in the Commonwealth is that people steal to support their drug habit or people steal to gamble or to do both," he said.

The commissioner said it is time that DPS focus on the "ice" problem because it's very rare for a person to steal something to support a family.

"It's mostly to buy drugs and gamble, or buy drugs or gamble," he added.

M/V *Luta* owner eyes waiving transport fees for farmers

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of M/V *Luta* is looking at waiving the transport fees of agricultural produce in the CNMI. This is apparently one of the concessions the privately-owned vessel is willing to give, after getting a significant funding support for its fuel and other costs.

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) confirmed that \$400,000 was approved for use by M/V *Luta*, a retrofitted cargo and passenger vessel owned by Japanese company, Luta Mermaid LLC.

Hocog said the owner of M/V *Luta* is also proposing to waive the fees for all farm pro-

duce transported between Guam and the CNMI.

Hocog said the fund will be mostly used for the fuel costs for M/V *Luta* as it sails from the U.S. mainland to the CNMI.

He clarified that the funds will be good for up to seven months of the vessel's operations.

With the subsidy, M/V *Luta* can, in return, provide discounts particularly on cargo fees transported between Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian, Hocog said.

"Yes, it is a private company, but it will help the economy, especially on the cargo fees,"



Hocog

Hocog said.

He said this could also entice investors' confidence on the CNMI if they plan to bring and ship out goods.

Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-03 was approved "to authorize the Department of Finance to pay for fuel, lubrication, and other costs necessary for the maiden voyage of the vessel from Louisiana to its new home port in Rota, and to provide for the personnel and operational costs of the Office of the Mayor of Rota."

The Rota Legislative Delegation adopted the resolution

on March 20.

The vessel set sail from Louisiana on April 15, and is expected to reach the CNMI in about 36 days.

Comments

Asked for a comment on the resolution, House minority leader Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said the bill should be an appropriation bill and not a resolution, because the Finance Department can only release funding through appropriations.

This is not necessarily illegal, but it should have been filed as an appropriations bill, and not a resolution,



Tebuteb

Tebuteb said.

He added that the fund is part of the fund allocation to the First Senatorial District, coming from the casino license fees.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, meanwhile, said the government plans to ask the owner of M/V *Luta* to ship some equipment that the Office of the Governor can use.

Torres said a letter of re-

quest was sent, and that heavy equipment are being eyed to be transported to the CNMI.

He added that the \$400,000 is Rota's "own funding."

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Teen hurt after being hit by car along Beach Road



JON PEREZ

Police officers check the scene where a male pedestrian was hit by a car as he was crossing the crosswalk in front of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe.

A 17-year-old male was injured when a car hit him as he was crossing on the crosswalk along Beach Road near the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe Saturday afternoon, police said.

The victim, described as a local, was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center by medics for further treatment, according to Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong yesterday.

Tarkong said a 46-year-old woman was the driver of the beige 2004 Nissan Sentra that struck the pedestrian.

The vehicle sustained damage to the front hood and a cracked windshield.

Tarkong said the accident happened as the teenager was attempting to cross the pedestrian crosswalk from Ada Gym toward the Kilili Beach area.

Tarkong said witnesses stated that prior to the accident, the pedestrian light was flashing and a car had stopped on the outer northbound lane.

There were no vehicles approaching from the southbound lanes.

Tarkong said the teenager started to cross through the crosswalk when the Nissan Sen-

tra, which was travelling north on the inside lane, suddenly struck him.

"No information regarding the pedestrian's injuries was released. Investigation is ongoing," Tarkong said.

Tarkong did not mention whether the driver was given a traffic citation or not. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DOCTOR

From Page 1

ness and taking a few seconds to recognize her as she stood beside his hospital bed in Guam.

Tears rolled down his face as he saw his children and uttered the words, "Hello Seuntjie," which is South African for "son." Claassens is originally from South Africa.

It was his son who reportedly called authorities to inform them of the incident that happened on April 4, 2015.

Evangeline told *Saipan Tribune* that she now considers "every day a blessing."

The only physician at the Rota Health Center was said to have a 20-percent chance of survival in his first days at a hospital in Guam. Despite those odds, he took his first steps after almost two weeks of being unconscious and on life support.

"My husband had three steps...using a walker and with assistance. He also sat on the wheelchair for a couple of hours," Evangeline said.

She explained that despite being lethargic, the doctor is expected, according to Guam doctors, to fully recover in due time. She said that after his resuscitation, the doctor's deep lacerations healed without any nosocomial infections.

"He is eating well. However, his mentation, gross and

fine motor skills are still a bit of a challenge. He eats good but with full assistance," she added. "With patience and love, nothing is impossible. I am very optimistic he will recover fully."

The entire Claassen's family will be accompanying the doctor to Hawaii in the next two weeks, where he will undergo rehabilitation to optimize his functional capacity.

"My kids are doing fine...I like it that way versus crying silently. For now, I am taking life one stride at a time, just focusing on the next step which is going to be rehabilitation."

Evangeline said her son, Henry, is starting to verbalize his feelings as his father's health progresses.

The healing process, she added, is for the entire family.

"The acute phase is done but I know it will still be a long process."

She said that her husband's survival would not have been possible without the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, U.S Naval Hospital, Rota Health Center and Commonwealth Health Center doctors, nurses, and personnel.

She expressed gratitude for the outpouring of support from friends and relatives on Rota and around the globe.

"Now that I have my husband back, I am not angry anymore but instead, I feel hopeful and blessed," she said.

WOMAN

From Page 1

viewed a then-15-year-old girl who told them, among other things, that Roberto paid her to have sex on a number of occasions, beginning in March 2013.

Park said the girl also disclosed that Roberto used the phone number (670) 287-6133 to communicate with her, among others.

Park said that IT&E was subpoenaed for information on that phone number and the records showed it to be registered under Roberto's name.

Park obtained a search warrant for information associated with Roberto's (670) 287-6133. He cited an exchange of text messages between Roberto's number and a cell phone number (670) 989-3474 on April 12, 2013.

When Macabalo was called before the grand jury on May 20, 2014, she admitted sending

text messages to Roberto using (670) 989-3474 in April 2013, Park said.

When asked about the text messages, Macabalo claimed they were just a "prank," Park added.

The exchange of text messages between the two numbers appeared that Roberto and Macabalo were discussing how he can get her cousin. Roberto also allegedly promised that Macabalo would get a commission if "all goes well."

Park said that, on Aug. 22, 2014, the girl was called as a witness in the trial of Roberto and testified about the text messages.

Park said at the trial, when asked if she remembers approximately when she left her father's house, she stated it was when her mother got admitted to the hospital for labor in April.

Park said the girl testified that she left her father's house after she got a text message from her cousin, Macabalo. Park said she

testified that after she left her father's house, she went to a poker arcade in Dandan to have sex in exchange for cash.

The girl said her phone at that time was (670) 788-1300.

On March 5, 2015, a grand jury subpoena was issued to Docomo Pacific for subscriber information and toll records for (670) 989-3474. The records showed the phone number was registered under Macabalo's name.

On March 26, 2015, Park obtained a search warrant for information associated with Macabalo's number.

Park said a subsequent review of the text messages showed an exchange between Macabalo's number and the girl's (670) 788-1300 on April 12, 2013.

The exchange of text messages appeared that Macabalo was arranging to pick up her cousin and asking to make sure that the minor girl wanted "to do it."

"I want the cash. am good," said the girl in her alleged text

to Macabalo.

In September 2014, a federal court jury acquitted Roberto of all charges that he enticed three minor girls to engage in prostitution and tampered with a witness while in jail.

The 12 jurors found the 41-year-old Roberto not guilty of three counts of enticing minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

In the third superseding indictment, the prosecution alleged that Roberto persuaded three minors to engage in prostitution or in sexual activity from March 1, 2013 to July 18, 2013.

On the witness tampering matter, the prosecution stated that the offense happened on April 24, 2014 while Roberto was detained pending trial.

The prosecution alleged said the defendant attempted to obstruct, influence, and impede the case by attempting to influence the testimony of an individual.

ORDNANCE

From Page 1

Department of Defense.

Citing satellite imagery and oblique photographs, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality said there appears to be mass wasting along FDM's east cliff lines; mass wasting on its land bridge on its eastern side, and imagery shows a recent cave collapse on its southern end.

Erosion or sediment runoff is one of the most serious stressors affecting coral reefs in the Mariana Islands. In reference to this, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in their 2013 comments on the Marianas Islands Training and Testing, or MITT, noted a concern for the "potential for erosion by current activities at [FDM] as well as the increased training of the proposed alternative."

The EPA said a 2008 range assessment of the islands "did not assess the fate and transport of sediment, including munitions constituents," from FDM.

The agency requested that impacts of erosion on near shore habitats, coral reefs maps, and mitigation measures, among others, be discussed in the final impact statement.

Right now, the U.S. Navy proposes to deploy on FDM 168,097 or 168, 928 total ordnance per year for action alternatives 1 and 2, respectively.

For explosive bombs alone, it would almost triple in amount—jumping from 2,150 per year to a proposed 6,242 bombs per year in alternative one, and 6,821 bombs per year in alternative two, according to the draft impact statement.

Both alternatives also introduce substantial amounts of explosive rockets and small- and medium-caliber gunnery to the island where there was none before.

When sought for an update on their requested studies, EPA told *Saipan Tribune* last week that the military has not yet released the final impact study and has not contacted EPA with any additional information regarding their comment.

"...Therefore, we do not know if [or] how they will respond to our comment," said EPA public affairs officer Dean Higuchi.

"We are not aware of any water quality reports for the waters around FDM," he also said.

When sought for studies on FDM sediment transport water quality, BECQ also indicated they did not have this information. Instead, they shared their 2013 comments on the MITT, which described as "deficient" the Navy's studies on erosion impact.

In their comments, the bureau examined military claims that "weathering soil and coastal formations on FDM has resulted from typhoons," as well as military claims that monthly surveys show "that increased erosion is the result of natural causes, storm, and wave erosion."

The bureau requested that more information be shared to see if mass wasting was actually caused by typhoon damage.

For the Navy's part, a 2012 study found that "although

minor ecological impacts, that could be attributed to military training" in the previous 10 years were detected, "no significant or substantial impacts to the physical or biological environment" were found in the near-shore environment of FDM.

"The restricted access to FDM has resulted in a de-facto preserve effect," the Navy study said. "The marine natural resources at FDM are comparable to or superior to those of any of the other islands within the Mariana Archipelago. There was strong evidence during the 2012 survey that FDM has become subject to commercial spear fishing. This has resulted in changes to the estimated total numbers of some key fishery target species and changes in the behavior of those species towards divers. An infestation of coral barnacles was observed in 2012, but this is not related to [military] training activities."

"The greatest threat to FDM's marine resources is overfishing," the study said.

CDA

From Page 1

The CDA board of directors adopted a resolution essentially recommending to Gov. Eloy Inos the suspension of the resort's qualifying certificate.

The resolution states that the resort "did not meet the minimum annual public benefit contributions requirement of \$100,000 in 2010 and each year thereafter."

On Sept. 26 2013, CDA issued a written notice of non-compliance to the company's president, Sang Ho Boo, and gave them 15 days from receipt of notice to request for a hearing before CDA.

But, according to the resolution, no hearing was requested.

The CDA board last December voted to recommend to the governor the suspension of the certificate and reduction of its benefit cap.

CDA recommends through the resolution two specific actions: the suspension of the resort company's qualifying certificate, from its effective date in 2008 through

December 2017 that would result in the company "not qualifying for any tax relief under the certificate during the suspension period."

The resolution also noted that acting director of the Division of Revenue and Taxation Larissa Larson was notified of CDA's decision to suspend the certificate.

Larson "did not object to the board's recent action," the resolution says.

The resort's qualifying certificate stated that the resort would contribute in cash on an annual basis not less than \$100,000. This would have to go to approved community-based public programs and activities.

The certificate also requires that 50 percent of these contributions be for public health programs and activities.

The certificate also stated that any contributions made to fulfill land lease requirements, or contributions that the resort receives education tax credits for, or contributions made to churches or church organizations would not count as part of these requirements.

Rota DCCA resident chief allowed to post \$1K bail

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed Friday Rota Department of Community and Cultural Affairs resident director Josepha Barcinas Manglona to post a bail of \$1,000 cash and \$49,000 in unsecured bond.

Saipan Tribune learned that Camacho granted Manglona's counsel Timothy Bellas' motion to modify the \$50,000 cash bail the court had earlier imposed.

Manglona's husband, a Rota police sergeant, served as her third-party custodian.

Manglona was brought to the Rota courthouse on Friday

afternoon to try to beat the 24-hour deadline to bring her to court, but the Rota courthouse was closed at the time.



Camacho

Manglona, who was arrested on Thursday, was supposed to be taken to the Department of Corrections on Saipan via late Friday afternoon flight.

As a result, Camacho held a hearing on Saipan without Manglona's presence. Bellas and Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas appeared in court.

An investigator said it was his first time to see a bail hearing in which a defendant was not present and that the affidavit of

probable cause and proof of service of a defendant's arrest have not been even filed in court yet.

Saipan Tribune, however, learned that Rapadas and Bellas waived Manglona's presence in court at the bail hearing.

Sources said when Manglona arrived at DOC on Saipan at 5pm, she was subsequently released because the bail was already modified and the \$1,000 cash was already posted.

Sources said members of the CNMI Public Corruption and White Collar Crimes Task Force arrested the 53-year-old Manglona on Rota on Thursday for theft, conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and removal of government property. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Kia Sportage LX retail price \$22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$356.34 or \$164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price \$30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$490.99 or \$226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$29,459.40.

DOJ: Tinian Dynasty's CW-1 petitions still on appeal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CW-1 visa petitions of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino

are currently pending on appeal before the Administrative Appeals Office, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

As such, the federal court

should dismiss the Tinian Dynasty workers' lawsuit in its entirety for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction, said trial attorney Sarah L. Vuong of the DOJ Of-

fice of Immigration Litigation.

Over 500 foreign workers of Tinian Dynasty are suing Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez, and USCIS California Service Center Director Kathy A. Baran.

This came about after USCIS denied 197 CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions filed by Tinian Dynasty owner Hong Kong Entertainment involving 693 beneficiaries.

Attorney Bruce Berline filed the lawsuit as counsel for Belal Hossain, Wenli Zhong, Pukar Patel, and 500 unknown co-plaintiffs.

Berline asked the court to declare that USCIS is precluded from relying on a pending criminal case against HKE, which owns and operates the 412-room hotel with casino, as a basis for determining that HKE is not a legitimate employer.

Berline asked the court to declare that denying HKE's CW-1 petitions on grounds that HKE is not a legitimate employer is a violation of due process.

In his reply filed in court last Friday, Vuong said the Administrative Appeals Office could reverse the denials, in whole or in part, and remand the petitions back to USCIS, order the petitions approved, or deny the petitions on different grounds than those stated in the Dec. 8, 2014, denial notices.

"In each scenario, the record is not complete nor has the agency issued its final word," Vuong said.

Vuong also cited the plaintiffs' lack of standing to challenge the denial of their CW-1 visa petitions, as they do not fall with the zone of interests contemplated by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

She argued that plaintiffs also cannot demonstrate their entitlement to a property or liberty interest that would provide them with a due process right, nor are they able to negate the government's rational basis in their equal protection claim.

Vuong said the AAO is authorized to engage in appropriate fact-finding to administer and enforce the regulatory provi-

sions of the CW nonimmigrant visa program.

Vuong said because the AAO has yet to issue any decisions on HKE's appeals, the agency's actions thus far do not "mark the consummation of the agency's decision making process," nor do they determine any of plaintiffs' "rights or obligations" from which "legal consequences will flow."

Vuong said the court cannot review plaintiffs' claims for relief under the Administrative Procedure Act because the administrative record for the case remains incomplete.

Under the APA, she said, a court cannot review an agency's decision without having the entire administrative record before it.

Vuong said the administrative record related to HKE's CW-1 visa petitions remains incomplete because the AAO continues to review the CW-1 petitions and has not yet issued final decisions.

Vuong pointed out that plaintiffs argue that the denial notices informed plaintiffs that there is no appeal from the determination and that they must leave immediately. She said this argument misinterprets USCIS' decisions and is not evidence of finality.

DPW chief, CPA board members sworn in

The chief of the Department of Public Works and three board members of the Commonwealth Ports Authority were sworn in Thursday on Capital Hill.

James Ada, acting secretary for the DPW, and Pete P. Reyes, Roman T. Tudela, and Jose R. Lifofoi, who were earlier appointed as CPA board members, will now officially start in their respective offices.

According Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, the new government officials have been given

their assignments and priorities.

Ada, according to Torres, has been asked to prioritize infrastructure projects, one of which is the improvement of areas in Puerto Rico.

The big ticket project in the area is a \$22-million road improvement project that is currently ongoing.

Ada was also earlier asked at a Senate nomination hearing on the department's budget, as well as allocations.

He was earlier told by sena-

tors that the department's budget "might be a challenge." In a proposal, DPW is asking that it allocates \$1.7 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for DPW's streetlights.

One lawmaker said this amount can be used for other purposes.

Ada, in an interview, confirmed the proposed payment to CUC, noting that payments for streetlights ranges from a low of \$150,000 per month, to a high of \$190,000. "But we will work with the resources that we have," he said.

Torres, meanwhile, said the newly-sworn in CPA board members will have to prioritize the U.S. military divert plan.

A "hybrid" plan was earlier proposed by the military, which included setting up facilities on both Saipan and Tinian, but the CPA has been steadfast in rejecting the idea.

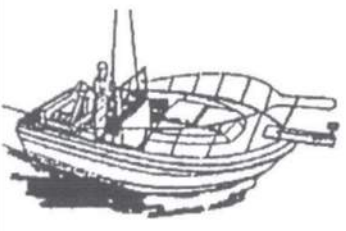
CPA board chair Jose Lifofoi said, "There is no change in the position" of the CPA in opposing the divert plan.

Lifofoi said there is no scheduled meeting yet between CPA and military representatives on the divert plan. But a meeting is expected to happen soon, as the CPA board now has a quorum.

Last February, CPA met with lawmakers to again emphasize that they will not give in to the military's plan to have a divert airfield on Saipan.

Saipan is the U.S. Air Force's preferred alternative for its divert plans in the CNMI, according to a draft environmental impact statement published earlier.

The CPA board of directors essentially said "no" to this alternative in a resolution. (Joel Pinaroc)



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DLNR chief backs extension of period to review draft EIS

For Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman, the danger of having to review a draft environmental impact statement on proposed military activities on the CNMI is that of missing "something critical."

Seman said he fully supports the call for a six-month extension of the draft EIS review because "we do not want to miss anything that is critical."

From a scientific point of view, Seman said that reading the more-than-1,000-page draft report is just the start.

"What will take time is the research part on what the document is saying," Seman said.

He noted that from his own initial review, there are a lot of provisions in the draft EIS on endangered species and questions on environmental impacts.

The official said "this is such a big issue" and that residents and officials "must use science" and "not emotions" in reviewing the document.

He likened the need for more research to a courtroom rebuttal, where scientific facts and

supporting research should be heard and considered.

The draft EIS has been described as "too technical"

The Inos administration requested for the review extension, followed by lawmakers.

Funds have also been made available, because the EIS review will require experts outside the CNMI.

Another funding is being eyed specifically for Pagan, which is under the jurisdiction of the Northern Islands. A \$75,000 funding to study the draft EIS, particularly on Pagan, is being worked on.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said the Department of the Interior has announced a technical assistance grant of \$250,000 to the Office of the Governor to hire environmental experts to review the draft EIS.

Sablan said the funds are appropriated by Congress and allows the department to respond to "critical needs in the insular areas for which local funds are not available." (Joel D. Pinaroc)



The CNMI Women's Association (CWA) extends Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and a heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of the Second Annual Women's Summit and all the events held to pay tribute and honor our women during the 2015 CNMI Women's Month.



Thank You!

GOVERNMENT

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, Mayor Efrain Atalig-Rota, Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas-Tinian, Sen. President Victor B. Hocog, Sen. Vice President Frank M. Borja, Floor Leader Arnold Palacios, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar, Sen. Justo S. Quitugua, Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Vice-Speaker Ralph Demapan, Floor Leader George N. Camacho, Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao, Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Rep. Angel A. Demapan, Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Rep. Joseph Lee "Pan" Guerrero, Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Rep. Vinson Sablan, Rep. Francis Taimanao, Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Carolinian Affairs Office, Commonwealth Election Commission, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, DCCA-Division of Youth Services, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas College, PSS-Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion, Ivan Blanco-Public Information Office, Esther S. Fleming-Special Assistant for Administration, Doris Drew-Special Assistant for Women's Affairs.

PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR SUMMIT

Ayuda Network, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, Northern Marianas College, Public School System.

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IT&E, KKMP Radio Station, KSPN Channel 2, Marianas Variety, Power 99, Cathy Anderson, Council for the Humanities, Saipan Tribune.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS/PANELIST/FACILITATORS/EMCEE

Dr. Laura Souder/Dr. Samuel Betances-Sauder Betances & Associates Inc., Speaker Judith Won Pat-Legislature Guahan, Margaret T. Aldan-Div. of Public Health, Kaisha Anderson-PSS, Jill Arenovski-Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Frank Cabrera-Dept. of Commerce, Rita M. Castro-DCCA and CCAC and CWA Board Member, Jacqueline Che-NMC, Dr. Ignacia T. Demapan-PSS, Agnes McPheters-NMTI, Amber Mendiola-Let's Move Marianas, Esther Muna-CHCC, Sarah Thomas-Neddog-West Care Foundation Inc., Lino M. Olopai-Advocate of Carolinian & Cultural Preservation, Frances Sablan-Retired and MANGO Non Profit, Dr. Rita Salan-Commissioner of PSS, Paulette Sablan-PSS, Vivian T. Sablan-DCCA and DYS, Jovita Taimanao-Vice Chair of CNMI Women's Association, Yvonne Taisacan-DOL and WIA, Geri Willis-Private Consultant, Leila Yumul-PSS

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Dianne T. Torres-Wife of Lt. Governor Ralph Torres, Dora I. Deleon Guerrero-Daughter of Gov. Eloy Inos, Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero-Office of Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Perry B. Inos-Justice of CNMI Supreme Court, Julie O. Manglona-Luta Cares, Erna O. Ngirongchor-CWA Board of Directors Member, NMC Interns/ABE Students, Emi P. Pelican-Local Artist/Musician, Mr. & Mrs. David Rosario.

LOGISTICS

Julian Camacho-DYS, Doris T. Evangelista-Office of Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro, Merosina T. Evangelista-CWA Volunteer, Evelyn Hermosilla-Multi Purpose Center, Josephine Kapileo-Office of Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro, Daniel Lisua-Multi Purpose Center, Peter Lizama-CWA Volunteer, Patricia Mareham-CWA Staff, Laurese K. Mettao-Office of Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro, Brian Manabat-Motherhead/Fatherhead Program, Juanita Nekaifes-Multi Purpose Center, Quaid O. Ngirichongor-DYS, Martin Omar-CWA Volunteer, Bernadita M. Sablan-Multi Purpose Center, Domitilia Taisacan-Office of Aging and Title V and CWA Staff, Jasmin Taisacan-CWA Volunteer, Maria Taisacan-CWA Volunteer, Mercedes T. Usenuku-Office of Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro, Gerhard Uys-Office of Aging and Title V and CWA Staff, Abner Venus-DYS, Rosita Villar-Multi Purpose Center

SOCIAL SERVICES EXHIBITORS & COLLABORATORS

American Red Cross, Ayuda Network Inc., Respite Care Inc., Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, Commonwealth Cancer Association, DCCA-DYS Child Protective Unit, DCCA-Nutrition Food Assistance Program, DCCA-DYS Parent Education Program/Children's Program, DCCA-Low Income Energy Assistance Program, Domestic Violence Intervention Center, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Joeten Kiyu Public Library Motherhead/Fatherhead Program, Karidat Social Services, DPH-Maternal Child Health Program.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OAG temporary relocation

The Office of the Attorney General's Criminal division has temporarily relocated to the former Commonwealth Board of Election Office. The building is located between the CNMI Judiciary and the Multipurpose Center. Please contact the Criminal division at 237-7600 for further assistance.

CCA board meeting on April 28

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its regular board of directors meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

OPA staff to be on Rota, Tinian

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on April 27-28, 2015, and on Tinian on April 29, 2015, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 9am to 4:30pm on Monday, April 27, 2015, and from 9am to 11am on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Mayor's Office from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of

photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. (OPA)

Navy training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on April 21-22, from noon to 8pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprised of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

Navy work to slow Route 1 traffic at night

ASAN, Guam—The public can expect traffic delays along Route 1 in Dededo and Yigo as Navy contractors scan the area for possible munition anomalies in preparation for an upcoming waterline replacement project.

Motorists are advised to adhere to traffic signs along Route 1 between Route 28 (Yseng-song Road) and the Yigo Fire Station on April 19-24 from 8pm to 5am.

The scanning procedure, a munitions of explosive concern clearance or MEC, is required to be conducted prior to the start of Navy construction projects. It will mitigate the risk of encountering unexploded ordnance during construction work. (PR)

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Team Korason joins 2015 MMAC

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Korason will be joining the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer, the signature event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

The team’s captain is Alisa Ann “Chicha” Pangelinan, who said this will be their second time to take part in the fundraiser.

“Team Korason, originally Team Dolores (Korason) participated in the first Relay for Life in 1999. The team took a long break, a very long break, but remained present indirectly and returned as Team Korason last year,” she said. The MMAC used to be called Relay for Life.

Pangelinan said that what got their team interested in participating in the 2015 MMAC is Dolores T. Benavente, known to them as “Auntie Ling,” fought the good fight and passed away in 1994.

“She was a vibrant sibling of the Tenorio family and inspired us to form a team when the ACS Relay for Life event came around. Since then we have lost loved ones to the fight. They are Dionicio C. Torres and Maximo DLG Camacho,” she said.

“We have many members who continue the good fight, like Roslyn Tenorio, Sophia Tenorio, and many others. For our team the MMAC is a way to reunite and fight together to provide support and love to our

family members and friends with the battle against cancer,” she added.

Pangelinan said they formed their team as a family.

“Today Cecilia ‘Auntie Chila’ Camacho’s home, which we fondly call ‘The Farm’ is the home base where we often gather with Auntie Cil’s open heart with her children. The children and grandchildren of the Korason line of Blas and Guadalupe line gathered and decided to bring back participation,” she said.

Team Korason plans for this year’s event is to camp out or sleep over in the evening and entertain themselves with card games, board games, and some bingo games for the night.

Their favorite part of the

MMAC is the luminary ceremony because it is “the most moving and beautiful portion of the MMAC.”

Pangelinan is urging others to join in the efforts by making a team and supporting the 2015 MMAC.

This year’s event will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field from May 1 to 2.

Saipan Tribune

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

April 20, 2001

Counterfeiting witnesses may be flown in to CNMI

Instead of sending court-appointed attorneys to depose witnesses in the Philippines, the US District Court may allow the witnesses to enter the CNMI for the sole purpose of testifying in the forthcoming June 11 US counterfeiting jury trial. The alternative was floated yesterday as a backup plan should the defense panel fail to secure assurance from the Philippine jail warden to depose suspected illegal recruiter Emma R. Cabigting, who is currently detained inside a Manila prison. The court may bring in Perla Valdepenas and Elma Florendo, relatives of defendants Romeo G. Montoya and to Nelia Baradi Florendo to deliver their testimonies.

Road mishap left 3 teens seriously hurt

High speed driving while under the influence of alcohol has been tagged as a dangerous combination that has led to the detriment of many motorists and road users. Both factors are eyed as leading factors in the case of a road mishap early Wednesday morning involving five teenagers. According to police records, three 17-year-old boys seated at the rear portion of the vehicle reportedly sustained the most severe injuries. They have been admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center and have been placed under the Intensive Care Unit for observation. The two 18-year-olds seated on the front row were a tad luckier than the backseat passengers.

April 20, 2003

House panel to tackle bill on sin tax rollback

The House Committee on Health and Welfare has summoned close to 30 CNMI agencies and individuals to testify on the legislative proposal that seeks to reduce by 50 percent the sin tax increases implemented under Public Law 13-38. In an April 15 notice, Rep. Gloria DLC. Cabrera—then the acting committee chairperson—requested the various entities to be present on the May 7 public hearing to be conducted at the House Chamber starting 9am. Witnesses requested to be present at the hearing included Cabinet members of the Babauta administration, including Public Health Secretary Dr. James U. Hofschneider, Attorney General Ramona V. Manglona, Finance Secretary Frankie Villanueva, Commerce Secretary Fermin M. Atalig, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Juan L. Babauta.

Man nabbed for reckless driving

Authorities arrested a 50-year-old man for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol and reckless driving after he reportedly drove over a triangle curb at the San Jose-Beach Road intersection. Dae Hwan Kim of San Antonio Village reportedly struck a vehicle that was about to make a right turn to Beach Road Saturday last week. The victim, James R. Fauls, suffered moderate injuries due to the impact of the crash. Police said Kim, who was driving a four-door sedan with license plate ABJ-198, made a turn from Beach Road to 16 Highway but drove over the triangle curb and struck Fauls’ vehicle that was about to make a turn to Beach Road.


April 20, 2009

50 cars burned, damaged in 5th arson incident


Arson investigators have determined that the fire that hit an auto shop’s junkyard in Chalan Laulau Friday afternoon was intentionally set off, bringing to five the number of arson cases on Saipan in the past two months. The Department of Public Safety disclosed yesterday that 50 cars were burned or damaged in the blaze. DPS spokesperson Eric David said yesterday that investigators have concluded that the fire at the Motion Automotive Repair shop’s junkyard was arson-related. David said investigators did not release more details as the case is pending further investigation.

Family of 4 remains missing at sea

Search and rescue team failed yesterday to locate a family of four who has been reported missing since Saturday night while traveling from Guam to Rota aboard a catamaran. Lt. Elizabeth Buendia, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam command center chief, said there were no significant updates about the missing family as of 3pm yesterday. Buendia said the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Washington, a 110-foot patrol boat, joined the search for the missing mariners yesterday afternoon. Buendia said a Coast Guard C-130 plane from Honolulu has been requested and will join the search today, Tuesday. CNMI Department of Public Safety spokesperson Eric David told Saipan Tribune yesterday that DPS Boating Safety officers are on standby if their assistance is needed.



United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



PUBLIC NOTICE TO CONDUCT FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS FOR 2017-2021 FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN
2017– 2021

Goal Areas

GOALS AREA:

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TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION & EARLY INTERVENTION

HEALTH

CHILD CARE

HOUSING

RECREATION

QUALITY ASSURANCE (SELF-ADVOCACY, ABUSE PREVENTION, MONITORING OF SERVICES/SUPPORTS AND ASSISTANCE)

OTHER SERVICE ISSUES:

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities (CNMI CDD) is seeking public input for FY 2017-2021 Developmental Disabilities Basic Grant State Plan Areas of Emphasis/Goal Areas. Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting Focus Group Interviews on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on how the Council can develop its priorities for improving services in the CNMI over the next five (5) Years. During the focus group interview, all persons with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, the general public will be given the opportunity to provide their input on the Areas of Emphasis/Goal Areas for 2017-2021 STATE PLAN by participating in a survey. Your input is important to the work of the Council. Persons interested to participate in the Focus Group Interview may call, visit our office, participate by completing the survey on our website www.cnmicdd.org or visit the locations on the dates listed below: **CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, P.O. Box 502565, Saipan MP 96950 - 1312 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan - (670) 664-7000/1 (670) 664-7030 Fax or 711 Telecommunication Relay Services or Email: info@cnmicdd.org.**

ROTA	TINIAN	SAIPAN
WHEN: April 21, 2015 WHERE: Rota High School TIME: 9:00am-2:30pm	DATE: April 28, 2015 (Tues)	DATE: April 30, 2015 (Thurs)
WHEN: April 22, 2015 WHERE: NMC-Rota Campus TIME: 9:00am–2:00pm	TIME: 1:30pm–2:30pm	TIME: 9:00am–10:00am
WHEN: April 23, 2015 WHERE: Bay View Hotel TIME: 8:30am–3:00pm	VENUE: NMC – Room D Tinian Campus	VENUE: AT Center Bldg #1310 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least five (5) working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Alternative formats of the survey is available upon request.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

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CLASS DONATION

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The Marianas High School Class of 1995 made a special donation to MHS on April 15, as part of their 20th high school reunion activities. The class donated cleaning supplies, toilet tissue and other supplies. Featured in the photo are the Class of 1995: Tanya Concepcion, Rep. Vinnie Sablan, Joshua Sasamoto, Jesse Tudela, Glenn Muna, Mitch Aaron, Nanette Palacios, Leila Yumul, Livia Pangelinan, Annalee Sablan Torres, Laurie Ann Deleon Guerrero, Ronna Erich, Jocelyn Manibusan, Christine Inos, Wilma Fejeran, and Melanie Sablan. Other Class of 1995 members who also contributed are Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Thomas Basa Jr., Janella Muna Cruz, Leonard Leon, Louanna Lynne Sablan, Patty Gabriel, and Laurena "Loling" Camacho.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday nina/auntie Sheena F. Maratita! May your birthday be beautiful and special just like you! May God bless you always. Lots of love, from Logan Luke and Tatum Mamet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Malou Fernando, who celebrated her special day on April 12, 2015, at the Shirley's Coffee Shop and Restaurant in Susupe.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed H.S Lee Hotel and Commercial Building permit application No.SMS-2015-X-005. The permit application was submitted by H.S. Lee Construction Co., Inc. to construct a three (3) story hotel and commercial space concrete building in Garapan across the "I love Saipan" shop on Beach Road. The proposed project site is situated on two private lots, TR No. 21073 and TR No. 21074. The first floor will be for commercial/office space and forty-eight (48) hotel rooms for the second and third floors. Included in the proposal are parking stalls, driveways and landscape design for the front of the building.

The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, May 04, 2015, 6:00PM at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality conference room, Suite 205, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments may be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the H.S Lee Hotel and Commercial Building project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Versoza accepted to National Youth Leadership Forum at UC Berkeley

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy student Mark Versoza was recently accepted to participate in the annual National Youth Leadership Forum, with an emphasis on engineering and technology, this summer at the University of California, Berkeley.

According to a letter from the conference's vice president, Jan A. Sikorsky, Ph.D., Versoza was selected through the program's academic partnership with Loras College. "We will provide Mark with firsthand experiences with professionals in the

engineering and technology fields, beyond what he can learn in the classroom, so that he is better equipped to make informed decision with regards to choosing the right university, college major and career specialty," she wrote.

By attending the conference, he will also receive college credit from Loras College. Versoza also received a small financial aid package to shoulder the cost of the forum.

"I consider being accepted into the youth leadership



Versoza

conference a blessing. I look forward to meeting new people and making new experiences," he told Saipan Tribune. "... I am thankful my family was able to pay the remaining amount."

The program is hosted at several prestigious universities in the nation every summer covering a wide range of subjects. The UC Berkeley summer program will focus on gamification, multiday simulation focusing on coding, and as well as explore technologies shaping the future.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 12-18, 2015 | ILOVELIBRARIES.ORG

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library humbly thanks the entire CNMI community for the generous outpouring of support for the Super Typhoon Maysak Relief Drive for Chuuk and Yap.

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- Congressman George Norita Camacho
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- Saipan Community Church (Pastor Roger Abe & Congregation)
- Saipan Community School
- CNMI Public School System (Central Office, William S. Reyes Elementary School/Americorps Volunteers, Oleai Elementary School, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, San Antonio Middle School, etc.)
- Northern Marianas College (Manny Castro, Hedwick Hofschneider, Floyd Masga, CDI, Nursing Club, Salvi Villanueva, Student Leaders)
- Marlon & Cathy Cabrera
- Ofoella "Deng" Angeles
- George Moses
- Emi Cabrera
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- Watabiki Hisayo
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Libraries protect our right to know.

Libraries strengthen our nation.

Libraries advance research and scholarship.

Libraries help us to better understand each other.

Libraries preserve our nation's cultural heritage.

Thank you for making National Library Week 2015 a huge success!!! Biba Marianas!

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Congress playing a risky game with Iran talks

The Obama administration is putting a brave face on its acceptance of legislation in Congress that injects the legislative branch into ongoing negotiations over the future of Iran's nuclear program. But while the bill approved unanimously Tuesday by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee could have been worse, it is still ill-timed and could make an agreement less likely, which is the not-so-ulterior motive of at least some of the bill's supporters.

Until recently the president had been expected to veto any legislation requiring congressional approval of an agreement reached by Iran and the so-called P5+1—the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany. June 30 is the deadline for a final agreement that would fill in the blanks of the “framework” agreed to in Switzerland on April 2.

But as legislation to require a congressional role gained bipartisan support, the administration shifted gears and began negotiating with Congress. The resulting Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 would require Obama to submit a final deal to Congress, which could approve it or pass a resolution of disapproval that would permanently prevent the president from waiving sanctions authorized by Congress.

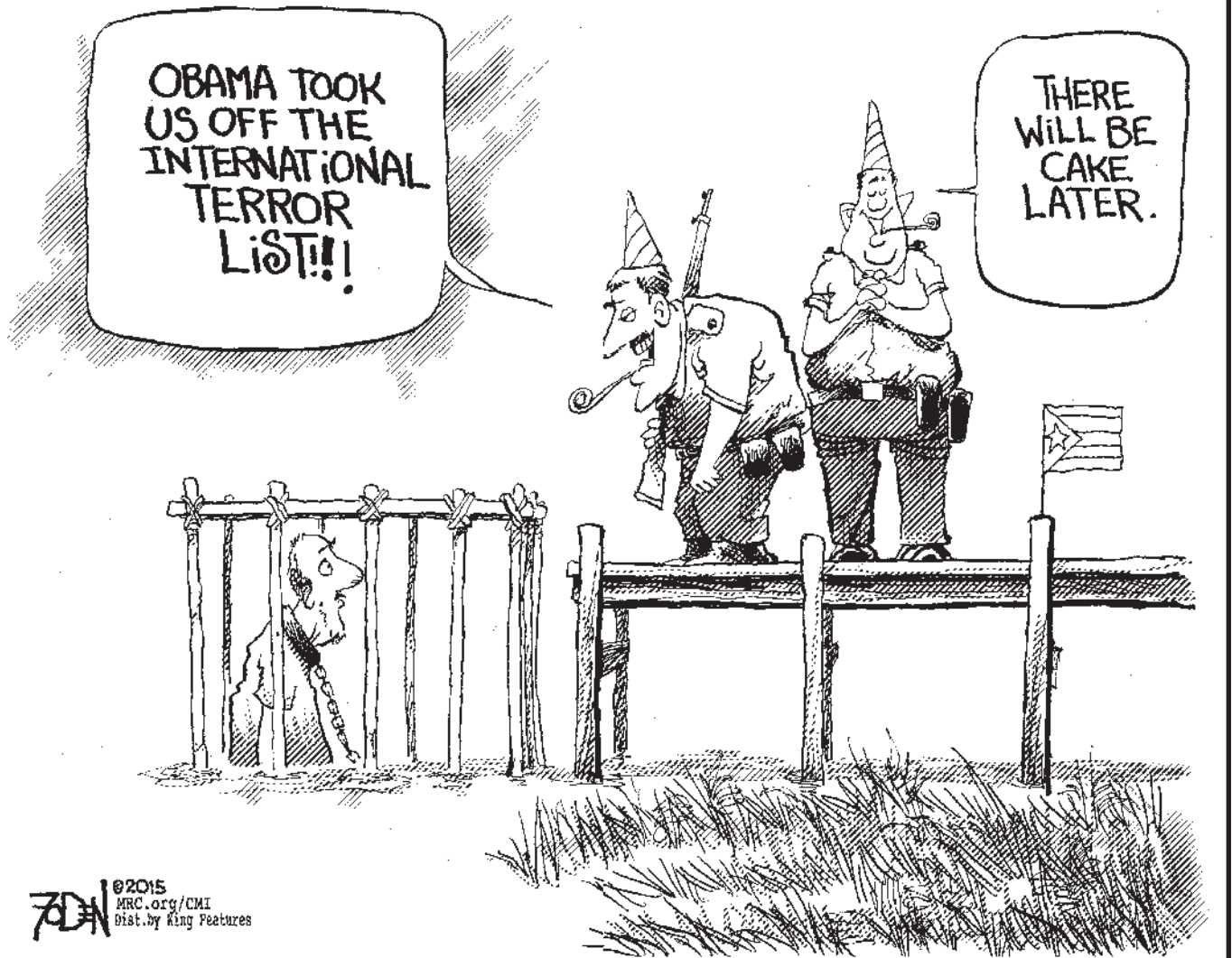
The bill is an improvement over previous versions. It shortens the period Congress would have to scrutinize an agreement. And it softens language that conditioned sanctions relief on Iran ending support for terrorism—a very serious issue, but one that has not figured in the negotiations and should be addressed separately.

And while the bill would allow an up-or-down vote, it seems likely that the administration would have enough votes to sustain a veto of a resolution of disapproval. That scenario seems to have influenced the administration in its reluctant decision to accept the legislation.

What is often overlooked is that, even in the absence of this legislation, Congress eventually would have to vote to permanently lift the sanctions it has authorized. It also would have the option of trying to pass legislation to stop Obama from waiving existing sanctions if a final agreement with Iran weren't to its liking. So what's the rush to pass something now? Doing so could interfere with what are still delicate negotiations.

On Wednesday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said, patiently, that “we are not negotiating with the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives.” But others in the Iranian leadership opposed to a deal might see the push for legislation as proof that Congress is determined to sabotage any agreement. We continue to believe Congress should refrain from legislating until the negotiators complete their work.

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Eretz Yisra'el

Ititled an article *Eratz Israel* earlier to play on a homophone but it went past readers save one who pointed out that I misspelled the word. She was right and it was intentional. The tone of the article was satirical as it was accompanied by a map showing Jewish settlement in 1946 as blotches of white to the current one where almost the whole of Palestine is virtually Jewish white, notwithstanding the geopolitical units of the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and Gaza.

Our current article uses the correct first word but uses the traditional *Yisra'el* presently used by the very conservative Zionist of the land. To be conservative today in Israel is being defensively arrogant about one's Jewishness, exemplified by the black *yarmulke*-hatted youth with the long flowing curly hair exhibiting locked-arm unity in stride, dance, and song.

Bibi Netanyahu, darling of the GOP that embarrasses Hussein Barack Obama at every chance and turn, has played the role of promising conservative Zionists on the eve of the last election that a divided Palestine will not happen in his watch. In a multiparty 120-member parliament where winning 30 seats is sufficient to form a coalition government, Bibi had the numbers to assure remaining in the Prime Minister of Israel's office for another two years.

Since the House of David unified the 12 tribes of Israel, with a winsome story related in the *Torah* and retold in the *Talmud* with its *Mishnah* exegesis and its commentary in the *Gemara*, and the *Midrash* clarification on the whole Jewish scriptures, Israel has been short-lived in geography but existed in the long oral traditions of the Judeo-Christian-Islamic faiths that shows the diversity within the unity of Levantine ontology in story narratives, scripted and spoken.

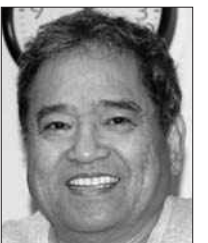
It was this almost 2,000 years of memory after the fall of Jerusalem that nurtured the phrase, “next year in Jerusalem” which sustained the hope of an *Eretz Yisra'el* whose boundaries re-emerged with the British Palestine that captured Zionist imagination around the world, and rock the foundations of British rule west of the Jordan.

This is not a case of choosing between the Palestinians (Muslim, Christian, and Druse, mostly Arabs) and the Jews since ethnically, the Semitic race is the over-arching category; it is a case of establishing a political unit that began with a minority of 3 million Jews with over 120 million Arabs breathing down their necks.

This is the story of David and Goliath save in this case the oil beneath the sands of Araby and the rest of the Middle East permeating into the whole of Southwest Asia was needed by the industrialized nations who armed Israel as its regional centurions. We see why

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



the “defensive arrogance” of Israel is sustained by oil, a dominant Western concern and its continuing access to the black gold assured by the disciplined armies of those in the land that struggles with *El, aka, YHWH*, the Way Life Is, called *Yisra'el*.

The Bush' WH (Sr. and Jr.) do not have clean hands as their Texas wealth is rooted in the extraction and refinement of the valued fuel, but the established truce on warring Egypt and Israel, resulting in equal levels of aid and assistance, was shattered in the Arab Spring that shook North Africa and the Middle East.

Obama in the WH, with no discernable interest in oil, wants to move the peace process forward to allow Iraq and Iran to sit around the same table with the remnants of Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria and the rest of the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf countries, presided over by superior forces of Uncle Sam, so he had Hillary and Kerry losing sleep over a shuttle diplomacy that was doomed because Israel is too important a player in the region to be just one seat among many around the table, i.e., if it is even allowed to have one! Many Arab nations still harbor the policy at partition of annihilating Israel.

Bibi Netanyahu faithfully protects the interest of his people within the lines of the oracles of David and Solomon. However, the issue for Israel in my distant perspective is: Without it being exclusively Jewish, Is *Eretz Yisra'el* possible?

Mao had enough wisdom to declare China as composed of 56 ethnic groups, never mind that 90 percent of it was Han, and the denizens of the central plains between the two rivers of the Huanghe and Chiang Jiang dominated the military and controlled the outlying areas of Dong Bei, Xizang, Xinjiang, and Nei Menggu, but it has the winsome story of honoring the diverse population in the land.

Jewish Israel can do likewise. Its 70 percent Jewish make-up is smaller than the Hans of China. Bibi may just be a strange hiccup, but *Eretz Yisra'el* has enough selfhood not to be defensive about it. *L'achaim!*

Rich, poor, survivor

When the poor walk long distances, it's because of necessity. They cannot afford to buy a reliable car, especially if they rely only on their minimum wage of \$6.05 an hour for food, housing, clothing, and utilities.

When the rich take long walks after parking their SUVs along the Beach Road pathway or walk in place at their favored gym, it's to de-stress or exercise. And then post their workout selfie on Facebook. But for short trips to a store or a restaurant, they use their car.

But there are also those who survive hitching a ride from home to work. Or they ride an unlicensed but reliable and affordable "taxicab" for \$3, \$4 or \$5, depending on the distance and time of day. Those rides are often new Toyota, with cool features, nice sound system and strong air-conditioner compared to sometimes rickety legal taxis that charge you more than what you can earn in several hours.

Or they drive their car that's likely at least seven, 10 years, or much older than their children.

The ones with money change their cars as often as the CNMI holds midterm or gubernatorial elections. Or add more to their garage collection to mark their birthday or after getting a hefty executive bonus. Then some of them sell their old rides to those who cannot afford to buy new ones.

When the rich ones' cars break down, they go to authorized auto dealers for repair. The poor try to fix their own bicycles, if they have one.

The others with almost Marpi landfill-bound cars check with their auto mechanic friends first to see if they can get their ride

fixed for free or for a very minimal service fee, or in exchange for a pack of cigarettes or a six-pack beer. Or they visit a non-descript Chinese or Filipino auto shop that does not cost an arm and a leg for even the most complicated services.

When the poor eat little, it's because they cannot afford a big meal.

When the rich eat little, it's because they're on a special diet to maintain or reduce their waistline. They also willingly pay more for so little amount of supposed to be healthy food.

The others happen to know who's throwing a birthday party, a beach party, a village fiesta, or where the daily prayer is for someone who had just passed on, for a free meal.

When the rich goes thirsty late at night when stores are not supposed to sell alcoholic drinks anymore, they go to their wine cellar or their own mini-bar at home. The poor can barely buy bottled water.

The survivors know where to buy beers and spirits well beyond 10pm. Others go to bars that do not close until 2am. They also know which bars can sell you alcoholic drinks until you can no longer walk.

Or, they join the neighborhood drinking session, even without contributing any drinks or chasers.

Or they buy cheaply from those illegally re-selling beers from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service or troop store in Puer to Rico.

When the poor ones are tapped to help their fellows, they do so mostly with little fanfare. The others donate their time and effort for worthy causes, when they cannot donate money.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI.

The really poor ones beg, but the rich ones raise funds usually for others, or at least that's what they want us to believe.

And when the rich raise funds for a cause—helping life-saving programs or protecting the environment, to name a few—they buy the tickets in advance, giving them reason to wear silly costumes or ridiculous outfits depending on the party theme or don their most precious jewelry, suits or gowns, and then make sure the community knows about it through the press and social media.

When the poor and powerless are caught with a different version of truth, they are accused of lying and could go to jail for it.

But if they are rich and famous, they claim being misquoted even if the interview was recorded.

When the poor are caught stealing, they go to jail.

When the rich and powerful are caught red-handed in flagrant violation of the law, they work up a credible defense and people who have good or bad things to say about them are interviewed by the press. They run for office and get elected again and again by CNMI voters.

Obama certainly not 'leading from behind' on Iran

In the two weeks since a U.S.-led coalition agreed on a surprisingly detailed outline for curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions, hardline elements on both sides have dominated the public debate, giving a false impression the complex negotiation is already in serious trouble.

But a more realistic note has now emerged from, of all places, Congress.

Last week's statement by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declaring all Western sanctions would have to be removed immediately and rejecting detailed inspection, encouraged U.S. critics like Arizona Sen. John McCain to cry failure and accuse Secretary of State John Kerry of misrepresenting the extent of progress.

McCain might ultimately be proven right on substance—though President Barack Obama was right to criticize him for calling Kerry "delusional" and saying he believed the Ayatollah's version of the talks. But such a judgment certainly seems premature.

For one thing, a final deal has not been crafted, nor written down. And the entire negotiation is beset by complexities, from the details needed to ensure a workable inspection arrangement to the need for accommodating the political situations of various participants, especially Iran.

Against that backdrop, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has introduced a welcome and somewhat surprising note of bipartisanship that could temper the tone of the inevitable congressional debate and help pave the way for approval of a deal—provided it contains the appropriate safeguards.

It did so Tuesday in a unanimous vote for a revised proposal to guarantee Congress a voice on the final accord, but under terms that make likely any properly drawn agreement would survive.

The panel's action was a tribute to its new chairman, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., and its top two Democrats, Sens. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., and Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., who worked together in a manner often lacking these days on Capitol Hill.

By shortening the review period and removing a provision conditioning any agreement on Iran renouncing terrorism, the panel passed a measure the White House accepted, since it seemed likely to have a veto-proof two-thirds majority.

It delays any congressional review until after the June 30 deadline for completing the talks, enabling the administration to tell Iran that Congress won't interfere with the final negotiations, and limits the review period to 30 days, though with some caveats.

Any measure to block an agreement would require 60 votes in the Senate, meaning the 54 Republicans would need some Democratic support. And even if it passed, Obama could veto it, meaning at least 13 Democrats would have to override his veto if all 54 Republican senators voted to do so.

In the end, it might not come to that, though such events as Russia's plans to ship missiles to Iran strengthen the voice of critics, as would any Western compromises needed to reach the final nuclear agreement.

In fact, both sides will likely have to accept compromises: The West might have to ease some international sanctions more quickly than the United States prefers. Iran may have to accept more inspection and a lower level of peaceful nuclear activity

than it wants.

There is an underlying irony in the political criticism of Obama's Iran nuclear negotiation—not to mention his other major international initiative: his outreach to Cuba.

Despite the daring raid that killed Osama bin Laden, Obama has struggled to surmount the characterization—stemming from an anonymous quote attributed to a White House adviser by The New Yorker's Ryan Lizza—that he was "leading from behind" by taking a less assertive role in reacting to global turmoil.

That criticism seemed especially appropriate after Obama's inconsistent reaction to the instability that has emerged in several Middle East countries, where he was strongly influenced by his determination to avoid U.S. involvement in another ground war like those in Iraq and Afghanistan. He looked especially weak in vowing to bomb Syria's chemical warfare sites and then backing off.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was scared, we were all scared

The single fear of every citizen has always been driven by the unknown of what our leaders are going to do about a certain issue and sometimes we have to wait literally years for an answer or solution. After thinking about the recent event and talking with Sen. Sixto, the reality is I was scared they were not going to consider full legalization. I was afraid like those who are sick without insurance and can't buy marijuana and many others who thought recreational use *would not* be put on the table. It was that fear that pushed me to do or say something to make sure the senators recognized that the majority at the hearings and maybe even in our society preferred full legalization. It was not meant to be disrespectful. But now that Senator Palacios has put it on the record that they are being objective and "considering recreational use" and being given assurance by Sixto that all the concerns are being duly noted that will be reflected in their final outcome, there's no reason to be scared or to worry as full legalization will stand on its merits—they will do the right thing.

I just hope the senators and readers can now understand and agree that it was the gag order by Sen. Sixto that recreational use *could not* be discussed that triggered the fear for recreational supporters. He clearly made it appear that recreational use *would not* be considered thus we ended up with me demanding that they recognize recreational use, which was amplified in the majority of the testimonies. But I now fully understand why the committee withheld commenting on the testimonies and the obvious shift for full legalization until the end. I hope they will forgive me and try to understand that when you are leading people, sometimes you need to give a little update as to how things are going—especially when you are taking them places they have never been before and people like me are watching everywhere we are going literally. Many people, especially among the silent majority who are ashamed to speak up, were questioning if they were considering recreational use or not. I just hope the sena-

tors, especially Madame Chair Santos, can understand the level of fear among citizens that loomed over the committee to consider recreational use!

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to Sixto as he is doing a great job with the marijuana issue and his medical mileage bill. His only mistake was the gag order and I'm sure he learned from this just like I did and he deserves an A-. Keep it up. I admire him for having the courage to open the doors to marijuana use as he is not scared and he remained professional by continuing to communicate with me on this issue or we could still be in conflict with one another instead of working together. I also want to extend my thanks and apology to all the committee members, especially to Madame Chair Santos as the committee is challenged with a hard job and we all, self-included, need to be a little bit more patient and wait for their final recommendations before we start complaining. I'm sorry and lesson learned. I just hope my critics got it too!

P.S.: There is no shame in my game to be humble and respectful, which is why I apologized. Keep that in mind, future leaders, because if you stay professional and focused on what's best for all the people first before taking on a special interest group's issue, you will always get it right. You should also read what the Federalists Papers say about special interest groups as they can be very powerful and even dangerous, which is how marijuana became illegal. The special interest of cotton growers combined with the wealth, power and political connections of newspaper baron Randolph Hearst who controlled most of the paper industry and didn't want to see hemp paper in the market. Money and power ruled; it really had nothing to do with people getting high—a lesson we have learned and now we need to fix the entire problem they created with full legalization!

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan



By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.

A very brief history of military buildups in the CNMI

By **DON FARRELL**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Military buildups, as well as military downsizing, have occurred several times in the history of the Northern Mariana Islands. The current buildup proposal, however, is clearly the most unique.

The first foreign military garrison in the Marianas was established by Spain in the 1680s, primarily to defend the Spanish colony from Chamorros who refused to accept Spanish culture and customs. The military population of the Marianas remained relatively static until the Marianas colony was designated a federal penal colony in the mid-1800s. Large numbers of convicted felons and political revolutionaries were sent to Guam and Saipan, along with their military guards. In the aftermath of the American capture and occupation of Guam and the Philippines in 1898, a large detachment of Filipino soldiers loyal to Spain and their families were housed on Saipan, causing considerable overcrowding and related social problems.

Germany never established a military outpost in the Northern Marianas after purchasing Spanish-Micronesia following America's war with Spain in 1898.

However, when the Northern Marianas was captured from Germany by the Japanese Imperial Navy in 1914 at the outset of World War I, they established a naval civil administration for the Northern Mariana Islands, not significantly different from the U.S. Naval Government of Guam, with naval officers in charge of civil affairs. These troops were withdrawn after a civilian bureau was created in Tokyo to manage Japan's new colonial territory under a Class C mandate from the League of Nations in 1922. No major military activities occurred in the Japanese Northern Mariana Islands until 1937. After Japan had launched its war in Southern China and the last treaties between the United States and Japan expired, the Japanese Imperial Navy began constructing airbases. Along with them came contractors and their laborers, swelling the population in 1938 and 1939. By 1941 Pagan, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were well-developed military installations, employing thousands of troops and civilians. After the United States captured the Gilbert and Marshall Islands from Japan in the fall and spring of 1943, large numbers of veteran Japanese troops were relocated from China and Korea to the Northern Marianas, forcing the local population from their homes.

The American capture of the Mariana Islands in June, July, and August of 1944 eliminated Japanese military forces. American military construction on Saipan and Tinian was massive; the surviving local population of Saipan and Tinian was relocated to stockades for the duration of the war. At the end of the war, the islands were demobilized (downsized). By about 1951, the

‘CNMI will benefit from military trainings here’

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Defense's planned military buildup in the region has put the CNMI community in a quandary, with some supporting military activities on Tinian and Pagan and some opposing it.

One of the islands' most respected citizens and business leaders, David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan, has thrown his full support behind the plan and is asking the CNMI's leaders and community to follow suit.

Everybody already knows about Sablan's ordeal during World War II and how he survived the war as a 12-year-old boy living in a cave in Marpi.

Despite having a front-row seat on the chaos and destruction the Pacific war brought to the islands, Sablan is encouraging the CNMI and its leaders to give as much as possible a favorable consideration to the military's request to use Tinian and Pagan for live-fire training.

"The military is not doing anything that would jeopardize the livelihood of the people here in the CNMI. I think it is very important that we do the best we can to accommodate the military's needs, because they have a mission to fulfill and that mission is to defend the U.S. and its territories and we are a part of that," he said.

"I strongly urge that the leaders of the CNMI to give it a very serious consideration...because it has taken them roughly four to five years to reach their final decision on what they want to do from the standpoint of training for their own people that are capable of maintaining a high standard of military posture, not only the U.S. but also because we are on the 'firing range' here," he added.

What he means is that the CNMI is near Southeast Asia and the CNMI is in the Pacific Ocean, inevitably in the crosshairs of America's enemies if war breaks out.

"All the sovereign nations are roughly in these areas such as China and North Korea. These people look at the CNMI as a very, very small minute area that they, in my own opinion, will

military was gone, except for a small administrative detachment.

The next military development was small. An organization known as the Naval Technical Training Unit was located on Saipan in 1952, the islands were returned to U.S. naval government for administration and closed to outside commerce and transportation until it was closed in 1962.

The next U.S. military buildup in the Northern Marianas was proposed in 1972, but never came to fruition. President Nixon's 1969 decision to re-open relations with the People's Republic of China required an end to the Vietnam War. To maintain the integrity of the U.S.-Japan security alliance—the backbone of peace in the Pacific since World War II—Nixon agreed to return Iwo Jima and Okinawa to Japan. This required a fallback base for troops stationed in Okinawa. To ensure the new facility would be located on "sovereign American soil," the U.S. offered citizenship and maximum self-government under the U.S. constitution to the people of the Northern Marianas in return for a lease on two-thirds of Tinian. B-52s would be relocated to North Field, with Marine training ranges in the south. Before the Covenant was signed, however, Nixon pulled out of Vietnam. Regardless, the CNMI was born, Congress found no reason to fund the construction of the Tinian base, and Tinian remained undeveloped.

A new proposal for military buildup in the CNMI was not initiated until after the 2006 renewal of the U.S.-Japan alliance. The first was the Joint Guam Program Office plan, which produced a Programmatic Agreement on historic sites and a Record of Decision. However, Congress demanded a Pacific-wide lay-down for the Marine Corps before authorizing the development.

Marine Forces Pacific subsequently submitted a new plan based on a study of deficiencies in Marine Corps training in the Pacific. According to the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Study for the Commonwealth Joint Military Training plan, conducted within the requirements stipulated in the National Environmental Policy Act, MarForPac would maximize use of DoD leased lands on Tinian for a variety of training purposes. Port support requirements dictate the need to acquire additional leased lands on Tinian. MarForPac would also acquire a lease on Pagan Island for amphibious training exercises. The CJMT Record of Decision is expected in mid-2016.

What makes this buildup proposal unique from all others in Marianas history is the CNMI Covenant. Thanks to both the American and Northern Marianas negotiators, the Covenant requires DoD to request an authorization from Congress if they

CNMI PERSPECTIVES

The *Saipan Tribune* introduces this occasional addendum to its Opinion section, soliciting the viewpoints, opinions, and thoughts of experts, academics, and members of the public on a specific topic. For this inaugural issue, we will be featuring columns and articles that reflect on the impending militarization of the Commonwealth.

not hesitate to do the wrong 'test' on and it is dangerous," said Sablan.

He said he is not trying to scare the community but is merely being practical, the CNMI being a U.S. territory and could be a possible target if any war were to break out.

"I am just giving my feeling because I don't want to see our people suffer through another war. I think these people are being very reasonable, saying 'Let us train our people here locally' because this is a territory of the U.S. and the training that we accommodate for the military to do here is going to be very beneficial to us because our own people are members of the military," he said.

"We need them to train, so if there was ever a war and our own people who are members of the military go out there and fight, they need to come back alive and not in a casket. This is my biggest concern."

Sablan conceded there are certain things the military is not able to share with the CNMI at this point.

"They happen to know the danger that we face here in the CNMI as well as Guam. They are basically training to prevent those from happening. How many times do we see on media North Korea threatening to shoot a missile? We're very vulnerable," he said.

"That is why I am in full support of the military to train here so that when the need for defending the CNMI comes, the military is well-suited and fits perfectly for that matter. That is part of the sacrifices that we in the CNMI should seriously consider."

Sablan recalled that when he was 12 years old in the morning of June 10, 1944, he and his older brother were getting ready to go visit their Japanese military friends. They saw planes in the skies involved in an aerial fight; bombs were exploding all over Saipan and planes crashing.

"I have been through WWII and have seen and lived through it. The military has knowledge of what they're doing so we should be supportive of that."

want to lease additional public land in the CNMI. They must present an argument justifying why they cannot perform the necessary training within the confines of their existing leased lands on Tinian, or use another island. Perhaps, the biggest question will be: What will the lease cost?

Two factors need to be taken into consideration when studying the plan from a congressional perspective: Japan is committed to paying a large percentage of the construction on Tinian and Pagan; and, recent Chinese military incursions in the South China Sea have raised significant concerns in Japan, Korea, and the Philippines—all American allies.

Those interested in learning more about this issue are encouraged to read the two volumes of history written by Howard Wilens and his wife, Deanne Seimer: *National Security and Self-Determination: United States Policy in Micronesia; 1961-1972*, and *An Honorable Accord: The Covenant between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States*, as well as Henry Kissinger's excellent work, *On China*.

‘Military plans difficult to ascertain’

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fully understanding a draft environmental impact statement on proposed "live fire" military exercises on Tinian and on Pagan may prove to be a difficult undertaking, according to noted historian and former educator Samuel McPhetres.

McPhetres pointed out that the CNMI does not have local expertise to fully review a draft environmental impact statement on "live fire" exercises on the two islands.

But aside from the lack of local expertise, McPhetres said he finds it difficult to predict a scenario—if and when the military exercises happen—because as of today, "we still do not know what the military is planning."

In the past few weeks, the U.S. military has gone around the CNMI to present a draft EIS to government officials, legislators, and businesses. A much-anticipated public hearing has also been set by the end of the month.

The draft EIS is seen as a prelude to the military's plans to fire live munitions on Tinian and drop "inert" bombs on Pagan—which, as expected—drew an uproar.

The government has been given 60 days to comment on the EIS, which was deemed too short a window, and requests have now been sent to the military to extend this deadline to six months.

When asked if the CNMI has the resources to review the draft EIS, McPhetres simply said, "No."

Impact on history

He, however, said that as far as history is concerned, the proposed military exercises could have an impact.

McPhetres said one area that he finds problematic includes ongoing archaeological digs on the islands.

"If we find something that really is archaeologically valuable but it is in the middle of the airport, what will happen?" McPhetres asked.

He also stressed that "we have no definition yet of what a historical artifact is in the CNMI."

"Pieces of pottery? Lapita pottery? How about artifacts from the sugarcane trade during the time of the Japanese?" he asked.

Incidentally, McPhetres is part of a team currently digging for artifacts on Pagan.

Military 'mess'

Another concern that McPhetres sees is the impact on the environment. "Who is going to do the cleanup after the military exercises?"

McPhetres, speaking lengthily on his experience on Saipan looking for unexploded bombs and munitions throughout the Commonwealth, said it has to be made clear who will be tasked to clean up the mess.

He said there is a site on Tinian that was previously used as a target for mortar fire. The area has warning signs, but still poses a danger as there might be unexploded munitions lying around.

"I am particularly sensitive about this. For 10 years, I have been working with demolition people and looking for unexploded ordnance in the Marianas," McPhetres said.

He said he earlier initiated a program where his students were asked to conduct a survey. The survey question—"How many people in Saipan have been killed or injured of unexploded ordinance after the war?"—yielded about 200 deaths.

"We do not know if there is going to be a cleanup of live fire," McPhetres said.

He cited a historical account of the Battle of Saipan in which 600 ships lined up along the islands and fired thousands of 16-inch shell.

He said a mere 10 percent of the unexploded rounds may prove to be very dangerous.

"About 10 percent are expected to be duds. And these [unexploded bombs] are still out there buried in a lagoon, or at sea," McPhetres said. "There are the kinds of things that I am worried about."



Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSE T. PANGELINAN,
Defendant.

Civil Action
No. 13-0103

NOTICE OF AUCTION
and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 27th day of May, 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **6th day of May, 2015 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Tract 20472-5, (part of original Tract 20472, AH 506), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2064/82 the original of which was registered 26 MAR 82 as Document No. 14154 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of March, 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ESCOLASTICA T. IGUEL and
SYLVESTRE I. IGUEL,
Defendants.

Civil Action
No. 14-0074

NOTICE OF AUCTION
and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 25th day of September, 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **6th day of May, 2015 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 045 A 060 situated in As Matuis, Saipan, containing an area of 959 square meters, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 00 the original of which was recorded 26 April 90 as Document Number 90-1671 and also recorded 26 March 93 as Document Number 93-1038, at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of March, 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM
Plaintiff,

vs.

MARINA A. CUYUGAN
Defendant.

Civil Action
No. 14-0171

AMENDED
SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: MARINA A. CUYUGAN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within (20) days after service of this **AMENDED SUMMONS** upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this **AMENDED SUMMONS**, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 20th day of March, 2015.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ELPHIDIA B. CAMACHO,
Defendant.

Civil Action
No. 15-0025

AMENDED
SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: ELPHIDIA B. CAMACHO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT, a copy of which can be obtained at the Law Office of Robert Tenorio Torres in Chalan Kiya, within twenty (20) days after service of this **AMENDED SUMMONS** upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this **AMENDED SUMMONS**, judgment by default pursuant to the court ruled of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 23rd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-234-7859
Fax: 670-234-5749

Attorney for Petitioners Justo and Jacqueline Quitugua

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

In the matter of
the Adoption of:

JUSTO JEREMIAH
QUITUGUA
Minor Child,

By:

JUSTO S. QUITUGUA
and JACQUELINE
A. QUITUGUA,
Petitioners.

Civil Action
No. 15-0126

NOTICE OF
HEARING FOR
ADOPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 27, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2015.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Michael A. White, ESQ. F0122
The Law Office OF Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6547 • Fax: (670) 2349537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Northern Marianas
Housing Corporation,
Plaintiff,

-v-

The Estate of
Margarita Ada Gaza, and
Danilo N. Gaza
Defendants

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 13-0022

Second
Amended
Notice
of Sale

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 21, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions

Set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants on and to the following property:

Lot no. 002 G 270, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly describe on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sell will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of sale may be obtain from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and condition shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 24 day of March, 2015:

/s/ By Michael A. White, Auctioneer

Hyatt Regency Saipan has tied up with *Marianas Variety* and the Public School System to host read-aloud sessions from April 20 to 24, 2015. These read-aloud sessions will feature *I Care*, a coloring storybook published by Hyatt Regency Saipan in partnership with PSS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt observes April as Global Community Service Month

Through its corporate responsibility platform Hyatt Thrive and in partnership with its printing partner *Marianas Variety* and the Public School System, Hyatt Regency Saipan will host read-aloud sessions from April 20 to 24, 2015. These read-aloud sessions will feature *I Care*, a coloring storybook published by Hyatt Regency Saipan in partnership with PSS.

The *I Care* coloring storybook is co-authored by Lynette Villagomez and Bobby Cruz and illustrated by Nhorleen Bitco. The 12-page book features Liam and Isa as they discover the importance of being respon-

sible members of society and of the value of caring—one of the higher purposes of Hyatt. The book project aims to impact the targeted audience, which would be pre-Kindergarten through third grade students in all CNMI public schools, as well as select private schools.

By way of the “I Care” initiative, Hyatt and PSS will impart the value of caring while advocating educational advancement and literacy.

“Taking active participation in this initiative is a way for

Hyatt to invest in the long-term impact of education advocacy in the CNMI,” says Hyatt Regency Saipan’s general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

The project’s peer review team was comprised of Luis Villagomez (“I Care” project coordinator and marketing communications manager for the hotel), Claudine Camacho (marketing coordinator for the hotel), Bobby Cruz (English language arts program coordinator for the CNMI PSS), Ly-

nette Villagomez (T&FASEG program director), and Nhorleen Bitco (creative director of Iverttech Solutions).

Every April, Hyatt hotels around the world confirm their commitment to a higher purpose by giving back to their communities. Throughout the month, Hyatt associates worldwide will celebrate the company’s Global Month of Community Service, a time when the company’s 90,000 colleagues honor their commitment to give back to the thriving communities in which associates live. This April, the CNMI PSS will also celebrate National Library Week. (*Hyatt*)

» Hyatt Regency Saipan to publish I Care coloring storybook

LGBT-rights group urges Guam governor to allow gay marriage

By GRACE GARCES BORDALLO and CALEB JONES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The nation’s largest gay rights organization and Guam’s biggest newspaper are blasting the territory’s governor for not allowing marriage licenses to be issued to same-sex couples.

Guam’s attorney general on Wednesday said government officials should begin issuing licenses after a lesbian couple filed a federal lawsuit because they were denied a marriage application. But state officials, backed by the governor, refused the attorney general’s directive because it wasn’t a binding legal opinion. Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo said lawmakers or the public could change the law to allow same-sex marriage, if that was their will.

James Perez Servino, an associate director of the Human Rights Campaign, issued a statement on the group’s website saying Calvo is “standing in the way of marriage equality.”

GCA open enrollment

Grace Christian Academy open enrollment for school year 2015-2016 has begun. Application for new students will be accepted from K4 to 11th grade.

GCA is a part of the U.S. Student & Visitor Exchange Program and accepts foreign students.

GCA is accredited by the Accreditation Commission of Association of Christian Schools International with the term of accreditation for Kindergarten to 12th Grade.

GCA admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin. The same rights, privileges, programs, and activities

He encouraged people to send messages to the governor’s office expressing their support for same-sex marriage.

“Gov. Eddie Calvo needs to retake civics after he passed the buck on the attorney general’s legal memorandum on gay marriage to lawmakers and voters,” an editorial in Friday’s *Pacific Daily News* says. “Calvo could have made the courageous decision to end discrimination against homosexuals in Guam.”

“The governor’s duty is to enforce our laws, not interpret them,” the editorial says.

Calvo on Friday released a statement asking for more time to make a decision on a “question of this complexity and magnitude.”

The U.S. District Court of Guam falls under the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, which has ruled in favor of gay marriage. Calvo noted that the court has stayed decisions on pending lawsuits for states grappling with the fundamental right to same-sex marriage.

are made available to all students at the school.

Interested families are encouraged to register on time as slots have already been filling up quickly. Enrollment packets are available at the Registrar’s office. The packet must be turned in with all other required documents. A student is officially registered after the interview and upon payment of the registration fee.

Grace Christian Academy is located on Upper Navy Hill. For more information, contact the school at 322-3320/3850 or set up an appointment to visit the school. *(GCA)*

“If the decision were so obvious on its face, the Supreme Court would have made the decision for the entire nation already. And the 9th Circuit would not have stayed its decision in the Alaska or Montana cases,” the governor said.

The 9th Circuit Court has delayed hearing the separate appeals from both states until after the Supreme Court decides the larger issue, and gay marriage continues to be legal in both Alaska and Montana.

Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson on Tuesday directed officials to immediately begin processing same-sex marriage applications, which would


have made Guam the first U.S. territory to recognize same-sex marriage. Loretta M. Pangelinan and Kathleen M. Aguero, both 28, said they are challenging “the discriminatory denial of their freedom to marry in the Territory of Guam.”

The Department of Public Health and Social Services should treat “all same gender marriage applicants with dignity and equality under the Constitution,” the attorney general said.

Leo Casil, the acting director of Guam’s Department of Public Health and Social Services, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday that Territorial Registrar Carolyn Garrido, who issues marriage




Calvo



United States

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN AMENDMENT

FY 2015-2016

Goal Areas

EMPLOYEMENT: GOAL 1

TRANSPORTATION: GOAL 2

EMERGENCY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: GOAL 3

SELF-ADVOCACY: GOAL 4

SELF-ADVOCACY: GOAL 5

RESPIRE CARE: GOAL 6

RESPIRE CARE: GOAL 7

THE CNMI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW TO SUBMIT A FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN EVERY FIVE YEARS AND REVIEW GOALS AND MAKE AMENDMENTS IF NEEDED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. THEREFORE, THE CNMI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WILL BE CONDUCTING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ISLANDS OF SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA ON HOW BEST THE COUNCIL CAN AND SHOULD SERVE ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES. DURING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, ALL PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL BE PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND OFFER COMMENT OR INPUT ON THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF ITS PROPOSED FY 2015 & FY 2016 STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS. THE PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS WILL COVER PERIODS BEGINNING FISCAL YEARS 2015 TO 2016.

ALL AND ANY COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS OR INPUTS GIVEN DURING THESE HEARINGS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS FOR FY 2015 AND FY 2016. PERSON INTERESTED MAY PICK UP A HARD COPY AT OUR OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CNMICDD.ORG](http://www.cnmicdd.org)

Schedule of Public Hearings

ROTA	TINIAN	SAIPAN
WHEN: April 21, 2015 WHERE: Sinapalo, Youth Ctr TIME: 2:30pm–4:30pm	WHEN: April 28, 2015 WHERE: NMC-Tinian TIME: 2:30pm–4:30pm	DATE: April 30, 2015 (Thurs) TIME: 10:00am–11:00am VENUE: AT Center Bldg #1310 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan
WHEN: April 22, 2015 WHERE: Bay View Hotel TIME: 2:30pm–4:30pm		
WHEN: April 23, 2015 WHERE: Bay View Hotel TIME: 8:30am–3:00pm		

CNMI DD COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 502565

SAIPAN, MP 96950

www.cnmicdd.org

info@cnmicdd.org

Tel: (670) 664-7000

Fax: (670) 664-7030

711

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Alternative formats of the proposed State Plan Amendments for FY 2015 & FY 2016 is available upon request.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Best Sunshine Resort & Casino

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Best Sunshine Resort & Casino is proposing to operate a 14-storey Hotel and Casino Resort consisting of 254 rooms and 6 villas with amenities. This use is classified as a “Hotel” and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on lots 104 D 08, 104 D 10 104 D 11R/W, 104 D 12, TR 21049-R2, TR 21054, 20152, 21050, 21059, 21071, 21072, 21066, TD 1440. These lots are located in Garapan between Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center and Orchid Street (Cpl. Derence Jack road). They are zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: April 30th, 2015 Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 29, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

ARFF BUILDING ROOF REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-15 CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the repairs of the roof at the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Roof Repairs at the ARFF Station, CPA-SA-002-15"***. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that the contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the ARFF personnel.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. An electronic copy of the layout can be made available upon request to Ms. Wendi Prater at email address wprater@cpa.gov.mp.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for construction	45%
2. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	25%
3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120)** calendar days. Liquidated damages of \$200.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: April 13, 2015



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB15-GOV-073



Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project was previously announced under IFB15-GOV-040; however that bid was canceled pursuant to the Procurement Regulation NMIAC §70-30.3-240(f). (Only one responsive bid was received at a cost that was deemed to be unreasonably high). **There are no changes to the plans or specifications.**

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the **Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce and CIP-CDA (PL 17-90)**. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Construction of approximately 2,290 LF of 12-inch PVC, 9,560 LF of 8-inch PVC, and 2,540 LF of 6" PVC waterlines, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, blow-off valves, fittings and appurtenances.
- Install new service laterals and connect to existing water meter locations.
- Install gate valves, fittings, and connections to existing water mains at various locations.
- Abandon in-place of old PVC pipe.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving and concrete pavements.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Removal of temporary facilities and controls.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **April 20, 2015** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **April 29, 2015**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit may be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **April 28, 2015**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB15-GOV-073"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 5, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 5, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 5, 2015**, and must be received no later than **May 14, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **May 15, 2015**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **May 5, 2015**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/S/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-016

WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of removal/replacement of failed and non-functioning water meters on the CUC water system, installing meters for customers who do not currently have a water meter on their service line, and relocating water meters to the right-of-way. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the USEPA and the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water & Energy Efficiency grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-15-016, Water Meter Installation, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 4, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Junior Engineer - via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-019

**Opening Date: April 14, 2015
Closing Date: April 28, 2015**

Deputy Director for Electric Systems

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or designee. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Oversees and directs the implementation of internal operations and programs of designated department; provides strategic planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluation of programs, projects, processes, systems, standards, and/or services; prioritizes projects and initiatives in alignment with organizational objectives; ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards. Provides oversight and operational direction to achieve departmental goals, objectives, and strategic vision; develops and implements policy; evaluates operational effectiveness and oversees the implementation of process and quality improvements and the optimization of resources. Serves as an organizational and departmental representative advising and consulting with CUC management, departments, Boards, various agencies and/or other organizations. Develops short and long term goals, objectives, and strategic plans; oversees and/or negotiates contracts; provides and presents communications and updates on department activities, positions and status. Develops, administers and oversees assigned department or division budget. Reviews financial statements, monitors and approves expenditures and ensures compliance. Prepares a variety of management reports. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Executive Director's Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$71,689.00 per annum to \$134,364.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Two (2) Year Contract.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and 8 years of professional experience in the assigned field including 2 years in leadership experience. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Managerial principles, practices and techniques; Utility service administration principles and practices; Advanced principles and practices in assigned area of responsibility; Program development and administration principles and practices; Policy and procedure development practices; Financial management and budgeting principles; Forecasting and planning principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. Human Resource performance management. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Managing, monitoring, and evaluating subordinates; Delegating and assigning priorities; Developing and directing department functions, programs and initiatives; Providing short and long range planning and strategy; Planning for and allocating resources; Developing and administering budgets; Monitoring operations and enforcing policies and quality standards; Negotiating and building consensus; Ensuring regulatory compliance; Monitoring and overseeing contract administration; Researching, providing and presenting reports, findings and recommendations; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Nation

GOP White House hopefuls bicker over America’s role in world

NASHUA, N.H. (AP)—Rand Paul lashed out Saturday at military hawks in the Republican Party in a clash over foreign policy dividing the packed GOP presidential field.

Paul, a first-term senator from Kentucky who favors a smaller U.S. footprint in the world, said that some of his Republican colleagues would do more harm in international affairs than would leading Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton.

“The other Republicans will criticize the president and Hillary Clinton for their foreign policy, but they would just have done the same thing—just 10 times over,” Paul said on the closing day of a New Hampshire GOP conference that brought about 20 presidential prospects to the first-in-the-nation primary state.

“There’s a group of folks in our party who would have troops in six countries right now, maybe more,” Paul said.

Foreign policy looms large in the presidential race as the U.S. struggles to resolve diplomatic and military conflicts across the globe.

The GOP presidential class regularly rails against President Barack Obama’s leadership on the world stage, yet some would-be contenders have yet to articulate their own positions, while others offered sharply different visions.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb

Bush, whose brother, President George W. Bush, authorized the 2003 invasion of Iraq, declined to say whether he would have done anything different then. Yet Jeb Bush acknowledged a shift in his party against new military action abroad.

“Our enemies need to fear us, a little bit, just enough for them to deter the actions that create insecurity,” Bush said earlier in the conference. He said restoring alliances “that will create

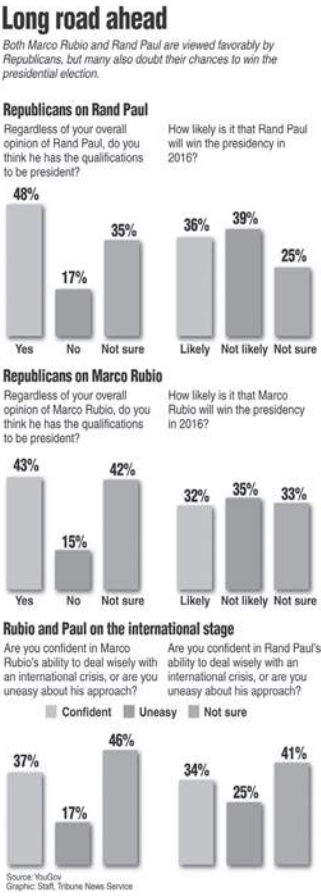
less likelihood of America’s boots on the ground has to be the priority, the first priority of the next president.”

The GOP’s hawks were well represented at the event, led by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who has limited foreign policy experience but articulated a muscular vision during his Saturday keynote address.

Walker said the threats posed by radical Islamic terrorism won’t be handled simply with “a couple bombings.”

“We’re not going to wait till they bring the fight to us,” Walker said. “We’re going to bring the fight to them and fight on their soil.”

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham addressed the question of putting U.S. troops directly in the battle against the Islamic State group militants by saying there is only one way to defeat the militants: “You go over there and you fight them so they don’t come here.”



School districts, parents at odds over breakfast in class

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The number of breakfasts served in the nation’s schools has doubled in the last two decades, a surge driven largely by a change in how districts deliver the food.

Instead of providing low-income students free or reduced-price meals in the cafeteria, they’re increasingly serving all children in the classroom. Food policy advocates say the change

increases equity, however, it’s fueled a backlash from parents and teachers. They contend that it takes up class time that should be devoted to learning and wastes food by serving it to kids who don’t want or need it.

Lilian Ramos, a mother of two elementary school children in a working-class Los Angeles neighborhood, said she takes offense at the district’s assumption that she hasn’t fed her children: She serves them a traditional Mexican breakfast each day.

“They say if kids don’t eat they won’t learn,” Ramos said. “The truth is that many of our kids come to school already having eaten. They come here to study.”

The Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation’s second-largest with about 650,000 K-12 students, has been aggressively expanding its program, and by the end of the school year, will be serving breakfast in class at nearly every school. That growth mirrors an increase nationwide.

Since 1994, the number of breakfasts served has climbed from about 1 billion annually to 2.3 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Across the country, 51 percent of children are considered low-income, up from 32 percent in 1989, according to the Southern Education Foundation. In a number of school districts, the vast majority of those children qualify for a free or reduced-price meal. In Los Angeles and Detroit, about 80 percent are eligible.

2 years after bombs, Boston Marathon looks forward, not back

BOSTON (AP)—It’s been decades since you could run in the Boston Marathon without qualifying, before limits on the field size made entering—almost as much as finishing—something to aspire to.

The course has changed a dozen times or more. Women were officially welcomed in 1972, wheelchairs three years later, and prize money was introduced in 1986, ushering in a professional era that rejuvenated the event and fortified its status as the world’s most prestigious road race.

But nothing in more than a century has done more to shape how the Boston Marathon is perceived and how it will look in the future than the twin explosions at the finish line in 2013.

And when the field of 30,000 leaves Hopkinton on

Monday for the 119th race, the effect of those bombs will be seen not just in the ever-watchful security but in the way the runners and their supporters have responded to the unprecedented attack.

“I don’t think it’s ever going to be just a race again,” said Desiree Linden, who returns this year in search of the American victory she missed by 2

seconds in 2011. “There’s so much history here: some of it is good, some of it is bad. When you run Boston, that’s always going to be a part of it.”

Over the more than a century since the first Boston Marathon in 1897 until Lelisa Desisa won in 2013, the event transformed from a footrace among friends into one of the world’s premier athletic contests.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-BECQ-071**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 06, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL (TINIAN BRANCH), FOR THE BUREAU
OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. BABULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**TINIAN CASINO GAMING
CONTROL COMMISSION**

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

- Chair’s Report
- Executive Director’s Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Section 58 - Request for Variation of Casino Layout
- Ratification of Table Movement Requests
- Licensing Matters
- Casino Key Employee License Applications
- Casino Employee License Applications
- Hotel Registrations
- Casino Service Industry License Applications

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**The Office of the Governor, CIP Office
& Maeda Pacific Corporation**

Announcing the start of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project. All residents and businesses along Orchid Street, Alaihai, Puti Tainobiu, Filooris, Bukiki & Kalachucha Avenues are hereby advised that construction of a new flood control system is in progress.

Construction will cause temporary closure of the above mentioned avenues from time to time. All efforts will be taken to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Upon completion this summer, residents and businesses along these avenues will enjoy a new drainage system, sidewalks, paved driveways and brand new pavement.

The Governor & Maeda Pacific Corporation ask you to please “Pardon our Progress” as we work to improve the CNMI.

World

Report says China building airstrip on reclaimed island

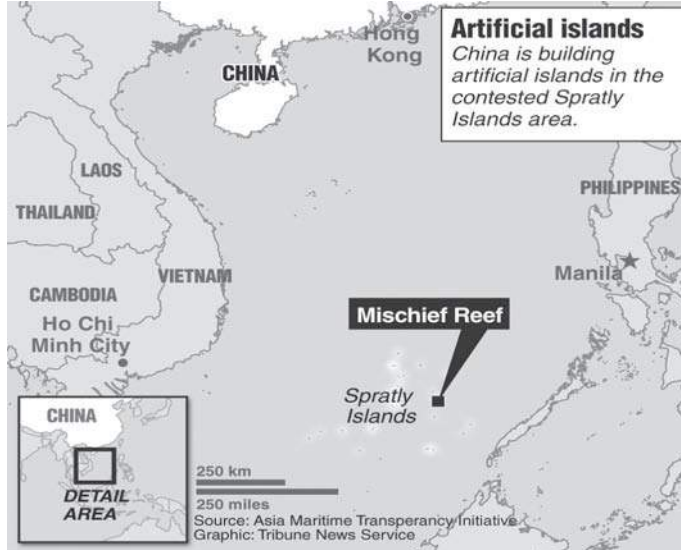
BEIJING (AP)—China is building an airstrip on an artificially created island in a disputed section of the South China Sea, according to independent analysts, a move the U.S. has warned could raise tensions in the area.

Defense group IHS Jane's said satellite images of Fiery Cross Reef taken March 23 show a runway more than 500 meters (about 550 yards) long as well as paved sections of apron. The U.S. says China is carrying out eight such land reclamation projects in the area.

Jane's said the island is already big enough for a runway 3,000

meters (9,500 feet) long that would be able to accommodate air force planes. China already operates a runway on Woody Island to the west of Fiery Cross Reef, which is also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines and Taiwan, and another island it is creating could also be big enough to accommodate a runway.

The airfield construction also was mentioned by the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific at a congressional hearing on Wednesday. Adm. Samuel Locklear said the reclamation work would allow China to exert more influence in the



contested region and possibly deploy military assets such as long-range radar and advanced missile systems.

China claims virtually all of the South China Sea and its island chains. Malaysia and Brunei also claim waters and islands in the area.

At a Friday briefing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei defended the island reclama-

tion work, which China says is largely to improve living conditions for people in the area and help with weather forecasting and search and rescue work.

Such work is "lawful, justifiable and reasonable. It does not target or impact on any other country and we hope that relevant parties can have a correct understanding on that," Hong said.

Islamic State blamed for Afghan suicide bombing killing 35

FAIZABAD, Afghanistan (AP)—A motorcycle-riding suicide bomber attacked a line of people waiting outside a bank Saturday in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least 35 and wounding 125 in an assault the country's president blamed on the Islamic State group.

The accusation by President Ashraf Ghani, following local media reporting the Islamic State group's Afghan affiliate claiming the attack, would mark a major escalation in the extremists' nascent campaign of violence in the country.

While nowhere near as powerful as the Taliban, the affiliate's ability to strike at will would mark a new threat for the country to contend with as U.S. and NATO forces ended their combat mission at the start of the year. It also further stretches the Islamic State group's influence far beyond its self-declared caliphate stretching through a third of Iraq and Syria.

The attack in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, targeted a crowd of

soldiers and civilians gathered outside the bank to receive their monthly salaries. The blast killed at least 35 people and wounded 125, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

Hours after the attack, Ghani blamed the Islamic State group for the bombing.

"In the horrific incident in Nangarhar, who took responsibility? The Taliban didn't claim responsibility. Daesh claimed responsibility for it," Ghani said, using an Arabic acronym for the group.

Local Afghan media quoted a previously unknown man who identified himself as a spokesman for the Islamic State group's affiliate in the country, claiming responsibility for the attack. It's not clear whether Ghani relied on this for his remarks or if he had other intelligence at his disposal.

The Taliban denied it carried out the bank attack and another elsewhere in the province that killed one civilian and wounded two.

WORLD BRIEFS

Breakaway Turkish Cypriots vote for new leader

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Turkish Cypriots are electing a new leader for the breakaway north of Cyprus in an unpredictable contest as talks to reunify the ethnically split island are expected to resume next month. Some 177,000 residents are eligible to vote Sunday for seven candidates, including hard-line incumbent Dervis Eroglu and main challengers Sibel Siber and Mustafa Akinci. Turkish Cypriot electoral official Mustafa Erulgen says voting is proceeding smoothly. Results are expected Sunday night and will trigger a runoff election next week, if no candidate receives enough votes to win outright on the first ballot. The elections will decide who sits opposite Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades in talks to reunify the Mediterranean island, split in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

After Alps crash, some experts ponder flights without pilots

NEW YORK (AP)—To improve airline safety, maybe we need to remove the pilots. That radical idea is decades away, if it ever becomes a reality. But following the intentional crashing of Germanwings Flight 9525 by the co-pilot, a long-running debate over autonomous jets is resurfacing. At the very least, some have suggested allowing authorities on the ground to take control of a plane if there is a rogue pilot in the cockpit. The head of Germany's air traffic control agency on Wednesday became the latest to raise such a prospect. Such moves might seem logical in the aftermath of this crash, but industry experts warn that the technology is fraught with problems. Besides, no matter how tragic the deaths of the 149 other passengers and crew were, it was an anomaly. Each year, more than 3 billion people around the globe step aboard some 34 million flights. The number of crashes purposely caused by commercial pilots in the last three decades: fewer than 10.

In Celebration of His New Life Jesus Masga Dela Cruz

Lovingly known as "Jesus Sato of Laulau"
February 10, 1941 – April 16, 2015

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: ☞ Sophina Hocog Masga
☞ Jose Dela Cruz

Siblings: ☞ Ana DLC. Duenas & Benadino Duenas
☞ Francisco M. Dela Cruz & Anna Coqure
☞ Adelia DLC. Babauta & Roque Babauta
☞ Rosa DLC. Camacho & Juan Camacho
☞ Joseph M. DLC (Finini) & Catalina Dela Cruz
☞ Agapita M. Dela Cruz

His loving memories will be forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Ramona Barcinas Dela Cruz

Daughter: Glenda Dela Cruz F. / Rick Falig
(Donovan & Alex)

Son: Robert/Esther Suzuki (Robert Jr., Anthony
(Kohlin), Angelynn, Goralynn)

*He will additionally be missed by numerous Family,
Relatives and Friends near and far.*

On Wednesday, April 22, 2015, final viewing and last respects will be held at the CHCC Chapel from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Christian Service will commence from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m, followed by interment services at the Tanapag Cemetery.

*Your prayers, thoughts & presence are
sincerely appreciated*

Ramona B. DLC, Children & Family

Health & Fitness

Study: High school smoking fell as e-cigarette use boomed

NEW YORK (AP)—Teen smoking hit a new low last year while the popularity of electronic cigarettes and water pipes boomed, a government report shows.

The number of high school students who tried e-cigarettes tripled in one year—to more than 13 percent. Water pipes or hookahs were used by 9.4 percent.

But smoking of traditional cigarettes plummeted to 9.2 percent from more than 13 percent. That means smoking in high school is now less common than e-cigarette or hookah use.

The decline in cigarette smoking “is very dramatic and very encouraging,” said Robin Koval, president of Legacy, an anti-smoking organization.

The report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mirrors the results of another government-funded study issued in December.

The CDC report is based on a national survey of about 22,000 students at middle schools and high schools, both public and private. Similar trends were found for middle school but at



AP
This Wednesday, April 23, 2014 photo shows electronic cigarettes and accessories displayed at a store in Chicago.

offset by the growth in nicotine-laden e-cigarettes and hookahs.

Some public health experts say the CDC is taking an unusually hard stand against e-cigarettes, at a time when scientists still trying to determine how harmful they are. They started selling in the U.S. in 2006 and are often described as a less dangerous alternative to cigarettes.

“The CDC has been very one-sided on the e-cigarette issue,” said Kenneth Warner, a University of Michigan public health professor who is a leading authority on smoking and health.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that produce an odorless vapor that typically contains nicotine and flavorings.

Scientists say nicotine is harmful for the developing brain. Frieden said e-cigarettes are a new way of introducing kids to nicotine—and potentially hooking them on tobacco products in the future.

“The idea that kids are better

off using e-cigarettes is just the wrong way of thinking about it,” he said.

A year ago, the Food and Drug Administration proposed regulating e-cigarettes, including banning sales to minors. A final rule is expected by June, an FDA spokesman said Thursday.

Others were more positive about the new report and the drop in traditional cigarettes, and voiced more uncertainty about the science around e-cigarettes. There’s not yet a scientific consensus on whether kids who try e-cigarettes go on to become regular smokers, Koval said.

lower levels of use.

Students were asked whether they had smoked or used a tobacco product in the previous 30 days; those who said yes were deemed current smokers.

Besides cigarettes, the report found continuing declines in the use of cigars, chewing tobacco and snuff among high school students.

CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden this week described the findings as “alarming.” He said the decline in use of most tobacco products was more than

Idea from Adam Sandler film is used to soothe dementia patients

NEW YORK (AP)—For 94-year-old Louise Irving, who suffers from dementia, waking up every day to a video with a familiar face and a familiar voice seems to spark a flicker of recognition.

“Good morning, merry sunshine, how did you wake so soon?” Irving’s daughter, Tamara Rusoff-Hoen, sings in a video playing from a laptop wheeled to her mother’s nursing home bedside.

As the five-minute video plays, with stories of happy memories and get-togethers, Irving beams a bright smile before repeating the traditional family send-off.

“Kiss, kiss ... I love you.”

Such prerecorded messages from family members are part of an apparently unique pilot program at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale aimed at helping victims of Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia break through the morning fog of forgetfulness that can often cause them agitation and fear.

It’s an idea borrowed from an unlikely place: the 2004 Adam Sandler movie “50 First Dates,” in which a brain-injured woman played by Drew Barrymore loses her memory every day and a suitor played by Sandler uses videos to remind her about him.

“It was fluff, but it made me think, ‘How could that translate to our residents with memory loss?’” says Charlotte

Dell, director of social services at the home.

“We’re looking to see if we can set a positive tone for the day” without using drugs, she says. “What better way to start the day than to see the face and hear the voice of someone you love wishing you a wonderful morning?”

As in the movie, every day is a new day, and the video becomes part of the morning routine. Relatives who take part are urged to say good morning, use memory-triggering personal anecdotes and remind the residents that attendants will be helping them get dressed and ready for the day.

Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias afflict a growing number of Americans as baby boomers age and people live longer. The Alzheimer’s Association says more than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer’s.

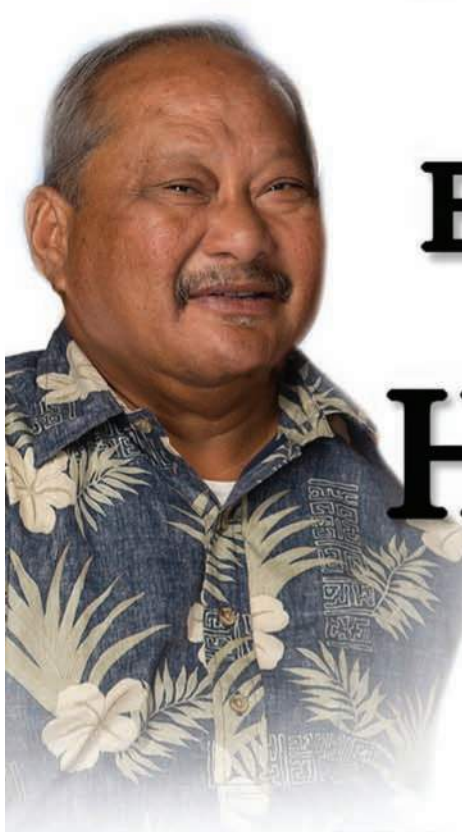
The personal morning video appears to be a new wrinkle in dementia caretaking.

“Memory tools like videos and photos get a lot of use, but to have a couple of minutes with a loved one as a way to start out the day, I haven’t heard of anything quite like that,” says Ruth Drew, director of family and information services for the association.

Robert Abrams, a geriatric psychiatrist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, called the program “both innovative and thoughtful.”

In Loving Memory

Eusebio Atalig Hocog



Eusebio Atalig Hocog, 63, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend was unexpectedly returned to our Heavenly Father on Monday, April 13, 2015. He was born on December 4, 1951 in his parent's home in Songsong, Rota.

Eusebio or "Bill", as he was fondly known as, was a proud and lifelong resident of Rota. He grew up in a loving and nurturing home guided by his father, Tito Songao Hocog and mother, Rosario Atalig Hocog. They preceded him along with his beloved son, Eusebio Atalig Hocog Jr., siblings, Carlos, Juanita, Lucia, Dimas and Lorenzo, parents-in-law Juan C. and Maria M. Ayuyu, and brothers/sisters-in-law: Pia Hocog, Vicente S. Atalig, Frederick Ayuyu, Vicente Ayuyu, and Barbara A. Barcinas.

Bill always knew what he wanted in life and never gave up in the pursuit of his goals. He was honorable, valiant, diligent, and a visionary his entire life. He loved learning and ventured into new things often. He enjoyed cultivating the land for future generations, while honoring the spirit of our ancestors. He enjoyed sharing his experiences and wisdom with young and old. He was steadfast in his faith and loved his family above all things.

Bill was married for 41 years to the former Rosita Manglona Ayuyu. Their union produced four children: Salomae Therese and husband Albert "Ace" Flores II, Jacqueline Ann, Rosario Marie, and Eusebio Jr. He loved his children and took great pride instilling the values of his parents and his life lessons. Bill's legacy lives on with his precious granddaughter, Eusebia Ana Hocog Flores. He doted on her and looked forward to their daily conversations.

He is additionally survived by his twin sister, Salomae H. Calvo and husband Vincent, and younger sisters Tita Hocog and Carmen H. Atalig, and their children. His input in family conversations and presence at gatherings will be missed. His nieces and nephews will miss the guidance and wisdom he provided. His brother-in-law, George Ayuyu, and sister-in-law Jackie A. Quitugua and husband Justo, will miss his presence during their Sinapalo lunch meet-ups. Additional in-laws: Joycelyn A. Hocog, Juan & Alvina Ayuyu, Luis Ayuyu, and Edward Ayuyu & Trisha Richards.

He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all that knew him.

Daily mass is offered at 6 a.m. and rosaries at 6:30 p.m. at San Francisco de Borja Church, Rota. Mass of Christian burial will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at San Francisco de Borja church, followed by interment at San Jose Cemetery.

"Be vigilant, stay firm in the faith, be brave and strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13

Life & Style

'Star Wars' design team teases 'Force Awakens' themes



AP

This image released by Lucasfilm shows a scene from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," the highly anticipated film by J.J. Abrams that hits theaters Dec. 18.

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" is about a generational transfer in more ways than one. Set 30 years after the events in "Return of the Jedi" and coming to theaters just over 30 years after the film first debuted, that idea remained top of mind for the film's brand new production design team, fans learned at Star Wars Celebration on Saturday.

In other words, they didn't have to reinvent the wheel. They just had to update it a bit.

Rick Carter, an Academy Award winner for "Lincoln" and "Avatar," was joined on stage by his co-production designer Darren Gilford ("TRON: Legacy"), Doug Chiang ("Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace"), and Industrial Light + Magic Art Director Christian Alzmann ("A.I. Artificial Intelligence") to discuss their work together on the seventh film in the "Star Wars" saga.

While the artists couldn't reveal any specifics about the plot, they did treat a

packed auditorium to a few revelations about modernizing aesthetics of everything from the X-wing fighters to the Millennium Falcon.

"Seven comes after six. It doesn't come after three," said Carter, referring to the poorly received prequels. "This is a period piece that we're bringing forth. We're always going back to go forward."

Indeed, at the insistence of director J.J. Abrams, the team relied on the original art of illustrator Ralph McQuarrie to inform the aesthetic of "The Force Awakens."

The early trailers for the film, out Dec. 18, reveal a dirty, grungier world. Droids and ships are beat up and run down in the desert landscape, much like they were in the original films.

"We wanted to play tribute to Ralph McQuarrie. When we got stuck on something, we would go back and look at what he'd done before. It's come full circle," said Chiang.

Alzmann said there was even talk about creating "What Would Ralph

Do" bracelets for the design team.

They had access to the extensive Lucasfilm archives to answer even the minutest questions. Sometimes that backfired. When Abrams told the team that he wanted the Millennium Falcon to look identical to the way it did in the originals, they realized there were actually three versions.

In the end, using elements of all three, they created the "quintessential fan version" of what the ship should be.

Even the designers themselves saw themselves as part of this generational shift in ushering George Lucas's original vision to the big screen.

Gilford, whose father illustrated the "Star Wars" cover of a 1977 issue of magazine Cinefantastique, said that even working out of Pinewood Studios in London connected the production to the past.

There he encountered many people who had either worked on the original films or had relatives who did.

Continuing with Abrams' oft-stated goal of building as much as possible in-

Mark Hamill said he was 'suspicious' of J.J. Abrams

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mark Hamill knew he had to say yes when George Lucas told him about the plans to move forward with a new "Star Wars" trilogy.

"It's not like a choice. It's like I was drafted," Hamill told a massive crowd Saturday night at Star Wars Celebration of his decision to reprise his role as Luke Skywalker in the "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

"Could you imagine if for some reason I said 'I don't think I want to do it?' I would have all of you surrounding my house like villagers, angry villagers with lightsabers instead of torches," joked the 63-year-old "Star Wars" veteran.

Hamill admitted he was caught off guard when Lucas invited him to lunch. When Hamill's wife surmised that perhaps there was a new film in the works, Hamill laughed. Lucas had told him specifically that he was done making "Star Wars" movies after the prequels.

He assumed Lucas was going to announce a 3-D release or roll out another box set of the films, laughing about the number of versions that have been

made available.

Still, his interest was piqued when Lucas disinvited Hamill's daughter. He knew that meant it must be big.

When things started coming together, Hamill said he was cautiously optimistic about J.J. Abrams, the chosen director for "The Force Awakens."

"I was a little suspicious because he was a 'Star Trek' guy," said Hamill, laughing.

The actor quickly clarified that he likes "Star Trek."

"It just seems odd," he said.

He went on to compliment Abrams for his inclusiveness. Abrams, Hamill noted, is also the first "Star Wars" director to be borne out of true fandom of the original films.

"He feels the way you feel in terms of wanting practical effects. Real sets," he said.

Keeping in line with the secrecy surrounding "The Force Awakens," which opens on Dec. 18, Hamill said he is always worried about leaking information. He claims he even learned the subtitle of the seventh film on the Internet.

Email: Affleck asked PBS to not reveal slave-owning ancestor

BOSTON (AP)—Ben Affleck requested that the PBS documentary series "Finding Your Roots" not reveal he had a slave-owning ancestor, according to emails published online by whistleblower site WikiLeaks, and the information never appeared on the program.

PBS and Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, host of the show that traces the ancestry of well-known guests, said in separate statements that they didn't censor the slave-owner details. Instead, more interesting ancestors of the actor emerged and Gates chose to highlight them in October's segment featuring Affleck, they said in the statements posted on the PBS website.

"For any guest, we always find far more stories about ancestors on their family trees than we ever possibly could use," Gates said in an emailed statement to The Associated Press. He said finding slave-owning ancestors was very common in the series, and noted Ken Burns and Anderson Cooper were two guests with slave-owner relatives.

In Affleck's case, "we decided to go with the story we used about his fascinating ancestor who became an occultist following the Civil War. This guy's story was totally unusual: we had never discovered someone like him before," he said.

Affleck's rep did not immediately respond to an email request for comment Saturday. The award-winning actor and filmmaker ("Good Will Hunting" and "Argo") has also organized humanitarian work in Africa.

The email chain between Gates and Sony Pictures co-chairman and chief executive Michael Lynton was part of a trove of hundreds of thousands of emails and documents from last year's Sony hack that WikiLeaks put into a searchable online archive on Thursday.

In their email exchange, Gates asks Lynton for advice on how to handle

stead of relying on sterilized computer graphics, the team discussed the idea that less was more.

"You can have all of this fancy stuff and a sci-fi movie is whatever it wants to be. Everyone is trying to outgun each other. This isn't about that. This is about the force," said Carter. He said they had entire brainstorming sessions trying to answer one question: "What would frighten us if the dark side came back?"

Carter remained cryptically informative.

"It's right in front of you. This is the movie. It's going from a deep level up. It's confident because there's a real story to be told," he said of the second teaser trailer, which premiered on Thursday during the Celebration kick-off.

He added: "When we say the force awakens it is the dark side and the light side."

Affleck's request.

"Here's my dilemma: confidentially, for the first time, one of our guests has asked us to edit out something about one of his ancestors—the fact that he owned slaves. Now, four or five of our guests this season descend from slave owners, including



Affleck

Ken Burns. We've never had anyone ever try to censor or edit what we found. He's a megastar. What do we do?" Gates wrote on July 22, 2014.

Lynton replies that it all depends on who knows that the information was in the documentary already.

"I would take it out if no one knows, but if it gets out that you are editing the material based on this kind of sensitivity then it gets tricky. Again, all things being equal I would definitely take it out," Lynton wrote that same day.

After going back and forth, the two seem to decide censoring the information is a bad idea, with Gates writing later on July 22 that if the public learned of it, "It would embarrass him and compromise our integrity. I think he is getting very bad advice" and adding: "Once we open the door to censorship, we lose control of the brand."

Affleck is never mentioned in the exchange of emails between Gates and Lynton; instead he's referred to as a "megastar" and "Batman." He was filming "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" in Detroit at the time.

When the segment aired Oct. 14, Gates focused on the occultist, a Revolutionary War relative and Affleck's mother, who was a "freedom rider" in 1964.

A PBS spokeswoman said in an emailed statement Saturday that PBS did not know of the exchanges between Gates, Sony and Affleck and wasn't part of editorial decisions made by Gates and his producers.

"It is clear from the exchange how seriously Professor Gates takes editorial integrity," PBS said in the statement posted on its website.

Gwen Stefani, Usher perform for thousands at Earth Day rally

WASHINGTON (AP)—A daylong Earth Day concert had R&B star Usher dancing on crutches Saturday on the National Mall to rally thousands for political action to confront climate change and poverty.

Usher, Mary J. Blige, Gwen Stefani, Common, Fall Out Boy and Train all performed during the free Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day rally hosted by will.i.am and Soledad O'Brien.

After suffering a fracture in his foot, Usher was in a cast but drew big cheers when he got his dance on anyway. He sang his hits, including "Yeah!" and "OMG" and also teamed up with Common to sing the beginning of "Glory," the Oscar-winning song from the movie "Selma."

"To end poverty, it starts, in my opinion, with an education about it," Usher told the crowd. "I want you to go and investigate for yourself so that you can really understand what's going on."

The rally was a joint initiative of the Global Poverty Project and Earth Day Network. It coincides with meetings at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Usher joined the poverty project at the White House on Friday for a meeting with officials.

"I felt really good that the issues we are addressing here are on the table," he told The Associated Press. After his performance, Usher said his passion is expanding education to help end poverty. But the impacts of climate change also have severe impacts on the world's poor, he said.

"Global warming is something that obviously will affect all of us. Clean water and sanitation is something that is very real," he said. "I understand and cannot turn a blind eye to what's going on."

For his part, will.i.am played host and said the huge turnout shows people are concerned.

"What I hope happens post



Usher performs at the Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day on the National Mall, Saturday, April 18, 2015, in Washington. AP

the concert is that people go out and talk about some of the issues that we were spelling out today," he said. "Talk about solutions, go online, dig deep and hold our leaders accountable for some of the things that they're pledging."

Backstage, Train frontman Patrick Monahan said he didn't know much before about the environmental movement and the push to end extreme poverty. But now he wants to stay involved permanently.

"It's about all of us being aware but getting our hands dirty because it's not going to be an easy thing," Monahan said.

Monahan said he's been inspired by the charitable work of Coldplay's Chris Martin and the Global Poverty Project, which has set a goal to end extreme poverty by 2030.

Patrick Stump and Pete Wentz from Fall Out Boy played some of their hits and said they wanted to show their fans everyone has a responsibility to help.

"How do you wake up every day knowing that a lot of these things are within our grasp and just kind of be like oh, ok, whatever," Stump said. "It's frustrating. But I think we're here for the reality that it's hopeful. We can actually do something. We can actually effect change."

Wentz said issues around the environment and poverty will be as big as the citizens' demand during the upcoming presidential campaign.

"We're who elect our officials. We're who empower them," he said. "So if we care about them, and they're impor-

tant to us, then they'll be important to the politicians running."

The rally also touched on global health and development needs. The U.S. Agency for International Development announced from the stage that it will commit \$126 million to rebuild West African health care systems that were broken by the Ebola outbreak. The U.S. government already has spent \$1.4 billion on the crisis to support 10,000 humanitarian responders and to provide equipment, laboratories and training.

While Earth Day is officially on April 22, the Saturday rally asked participants to commit to making environmentally friendly "acts of green." Organizers also asked attendees to sign petitions for a U.N. conference on climate change planned for Paris in December.

Ringo Starr, Green Day rock their way into Rock Hall

CLEVELAND (AP)—Ringo Starr was ushered into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with a little help from one of his famous friends.

The mop-topped drummer who kept the beat for the Beatles, Starr was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a solo artist on Saturday night during a ceremony jammed with scintillating performances and touching moments.

Starr was the last of the Beatles to be inducted for his individual work, getting in after bandmates Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison. He was always the fourth Beatle—John, Paul, George ... and Ringo—but now he's been immortalized as a frontman.

Starr was inducted along with Green Day, underground icon Lou Reed, Joan Jett and The Blackhearts, soul singer-songwriter Bill Withers, guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble, The Paul Butterfield Blues Band and The "5" Royales.

The 74-year-old Starr was inducted by McCartney, who said he could always count on Starr to have his back on every song.

"You don't have to look with Ringo," McCartney said. "He's there."

Starr, amazingly fit and looking 20 years younger than his age, then stepped to the podium and said: "My name is Ringo and I play drums"—as if anyone didn't know.

He was then joined on stage by Eagles guitarist Joe Walsh on "It Don't Come Easy" before McCartney came out to play bass, the two living Beatles jamming again, to "A Lit-

tle Help From My Friends."

The evening concluded, as it always does, with an all-star jam, this time to "I Wanna Be Your Man."

With plenty of punk attitude and energy, Green Day thrashed its way into the Rock Hall.

The Bay Area trio, which formed as teenagers and helped make punk rock radio friendly in the 1990s, briefly turned the star-studded event into one of their high-intensity shows with a powerful set of some of their most memorable hits.

From the opening power chords of "American Idiot," Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool had the crowd at Cleveland's Public Hall bouncing and dancing in the aisles.

Brash and belligerent, Green Day blasted onto the music scene just as Seattle's grunge sound was growing stale. The band borrowed riffs from punk pioneers like The Stooges and Sex Pistols, flavored them with some power chords and pop hooks and helped redefine a genre.

Reed was both daring and provocative as a songwriter and lyricist, pushing boundaries with ballads about forbidden subjects like drugs, prostitution and suicide. Reed's songs like "Walk On The Wild Side," "Vicious" and "Heroin" remain vibrant today. Although he died in 2013, Reed continues to influence a young generation of musicians touched by his rebel ways.

Patti Smith remembered Reed the poet and recalled being at Rockaway Beach when she got the news of his death. She rode the subway back to New York City, Reed's city.

Woman's explosive boyfriend must learn to control his fuse

DEAR ABBY: I have known "Dean" for 10 years. We have been living together for two. Since the beginning, he has struggled with depression, anxiety and anger issues. Occasionally he has explosive episodes where he'll throw things and punch or kick inanimate objects.

Recently things escalated. He was angry with himself after getting angry with me for disturbing his "process" while making dinner, and he threw a potted plant across the room.

I'm not an idiot. I know these are serious issues. Every friend or family member of mine who knows him believes he's a good guy deep down. But they all tell me to leave him. I talked with him after the incident. He called a therapist, set up an appointment and has promised he won't drink anymore.

I'm struggling with the judgment I'm feeling from my friends and family. Dean is a man I see a future with, and I don't want to give him up when he's finally seeking treatment. My friends are concerned about me getting hurt, either in the crossfire or when I try to stop him from hurting himself. Am I an idiot for not walking away?

NOT READY TO WALK

DEAR NOT READY: If all your family and friends are worried about your physical safety, for your own sake, you may have to stop trying to save Dean and concentrate on your-

self for a while.

He may have many fine qualities, and the fact that he is willing to seek help for his explosive temper says a lot for him. That's why I'm suggesting you and Dean pay a visit to his therapist together and ask whether it would be better if you live apart until he learns to recognize and manage his "triggers." It may give him the incentive to work harder on his problems—because it appears he has more than a few to deal with.

DEAR ABBY: Recently my 11-year-old son, "Jackson," was at a neighbor's house playing with another boy a few years younger. The boy told my son he plays with him only because his parents make him, and he said he isn't Jackson's friend and never wanted to be.

Jackson came home upset, and I was heartbroken for him. I comforted him and told him at least the boy was honest. I advised Jackson to find another friend to play with.

I'm at a loss on what to do next, if anything. Do I talk to the parents? Or just let it go? Friendship shouldn't be forced, but my heart aches for my son. Please give me some advice.

MAMA BEAR IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MAMA BEAR: Tell the parents what happened if

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



they ask again for Jackson to come over. While children say all kinds of things in the heat of the moment, it would be better for your son if you found some other activities for him — group activities involving sports or science or the arts — for at least a while.

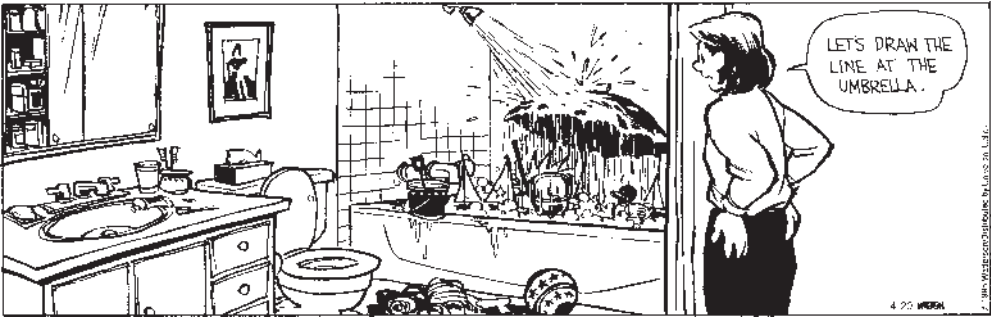
While it's understandable your neighbor's son may resent being forced to play with Jackson, it is equally understandable that Jackson might be reluctant at this point to have anything more to do with him. Don't push it.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

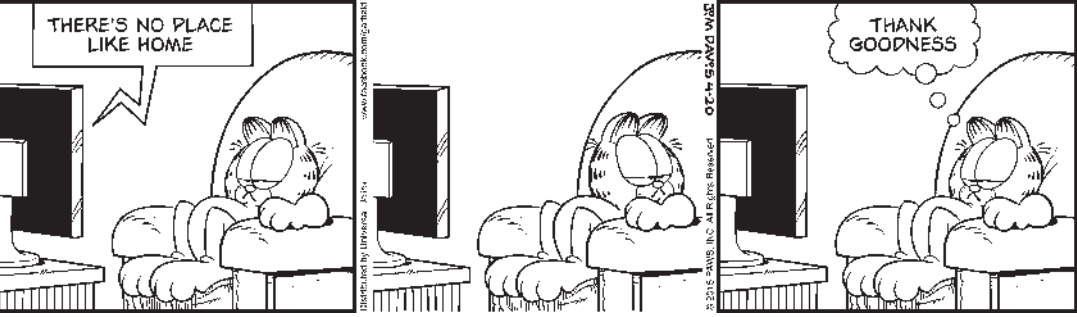
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



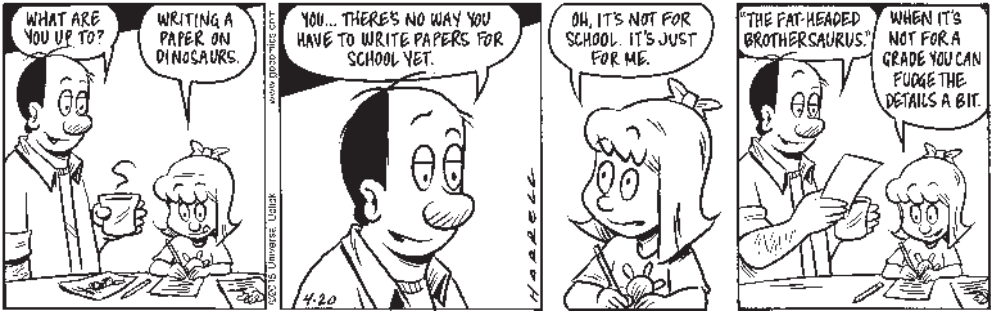
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Proscribe
4 Pugilistic
7 Greek
11 Venusian
13 Puncturing
14 Leave out
15 Creche
16 Sticky
17 Ancient
18 Sub
20 LummoX
22 Afternoon
24 Soul
28 Watch
32 Moral
33 Grad
34 Treasure
36 Long
37 Helvetic
39 Inhabitant

DOWN

1 Road
41 Anatomical
43 Teensy
44 Pre-swan
46 Duck
50 Shock
53 Once
55 "Zounds!"
56 Pennsylvanian
57 Have bills
58 Fax
59 Hotel
60 Potent
61 Rotation
1 Some-where
3 "Fugged-aboutit"
4 Binge
5 MPs'
6 High-arc
7 Ali Baba's
8 Flightless
9 Bronze
10 Noshed
12 Lesley
21 Employ
23 Intention
25 At so-
and-so's
(Fr.)
26 Take
on
27 Janet
Yellen's
field
(Abbr.)
28 Hit hard
29 Sheltered
30 "Ironsides"
31 Slight
35 Church
seat
38 Newton
ingredient
40 Born
42 Apportion
45 Show
boredom
47 On in
years
48 Carvey or
Delany
49 Vortex
50 A Bush
51 Raw
rock
52 Cover
54 Favorite

Solution time: 26 mins.

Friday's answer 4-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Joey Lawrence, 39; Carmen Electra, 43; Jessica Lange, 66; Ryan O'Neal, 74.

Happy Birthday: Your hard work will pay off this year, but you will also be tempted by people, products, services and luxury items that can counter your attempt to get ahead financially. Set a strict budget this year and don't let anyone talk you into indulgence of any kind. It's up to you to keep a level head and balanced books. Your numbers are 2, 7, 12, 20, 24, 33, 48.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a back seat and be an observer. You will avoid interference and get a much better view of the situation you face as it unfolds. Keep in mind that going with the flow will end up giving you greater freedom. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make a difference if you share your insight and findings. Don't allow your health to restrict what you want to do. Take care of your responsibilities and put your plans into motion. Networking will pay off. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen and learn from someone with more experience or with knowledge that can help you advance. Personal changes will require discipline, but in the end you will like the results you get. Invest in your home and your skills. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a close look at any partnerships you are involved in, and you will find a way to improve your position or move on to bigger and better opportunities. Don't make costly cosmetic changes to your surroundings. Keep things simple and functional. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Advancement awaits, and all you have to do is focus on what you do best. Don't embellish or make unreasonable promises. It's your honesty and energetic approach that will seal a deal. Love is in the stars. ★★★

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take advantage of a chance to make a professional move. Negotiate shrewdly and get whatever you want in writing, and you will come out on top. Bold action will bring interesting results that will inspire you to excel. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Learn as you go, but practice moderation when it comes to how much you take on as well as spend. A cautious but progressive move will help you convince others that you are on the right track. Control your emotions. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dealing with officials, banks, hospitals or government agencies should be handled quickly and with diplomacy. Get all your papers in order to avoid delays. Uncertainty due to a lack of detail must be avoided. Don't take on more than you can handle. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make a point to stand out. Your involvement in groups will enhance your reputation and put you in a position to make a difference. Share

your thoughts, appeal to the sympathy of others and let nature take its course. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make changes at home that will bring you great joy. Test the waters, try new things and don't be afraid to put yourself first for a change. Don't let someone's sob story take up your time or money. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Difficulties with friends, relatives or people in your community will cause concern. Don't overreact to the situation until you check the facts. Make home and personal improvements instead of trying to fix or change others. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick close to home and avoid mental or physical strain. Focus on what you can do to make a difference or improvement to your life, but don't make promises that you will be unable to deliver on. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are caring and helpful. You are persistent and resourceful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](http://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](http://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](http://linkedin.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			8	6	4			7	
	5					3		9	
6			7		9		4		
1		5				9			
7				3				4	
		9				6		1	
	7		2	5				3	
9		1						8	
	3			1	6	7			

Difficulty Level ★ 4/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	4	3	7	1	6	2	5
5	2	6	4	9	8	3	1	7
1	3	7	5	2	6	9	4	8
9	8	3	2	6	7	4	5	1
2	4	5	1	8	3	7	6	9
6	7	1	9	5	4	2	8	3
3	6	2	8	1	9	5	7	4
4	5	8	7	3	2	1	9	6
7	1	9	6	4	5	8	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/20

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

METERED DOSES Solution: 5 letters

N	E	H	E	T	A	L	I	D	I	O	R	E	T	S
O	O	L	G	Y	P	A	R	E	H	T	L	D	P	D
I	D	I	G	U	E	X	P	I	R	Y	D	R	D	R
T	T	O	T	R	O	O	M	I	S	E	A	O	O	U
P	N	E	R	A	A	C	G	I	V	Y	E	P	C	G
I	A	L	I	L	V	G	T	L	R	S	A	L	T	S
R	L	I	N	N	E	I	O	O	A	V	U	E	O	D
C	L	T	S	R	H	S	T	E	S	T	S	T	R	I
S	E	A	E	C	S	A	S	C	N	G	A	S	E	S
E	P	L	N	I	R	I	L	Y	A	W	R	I	A	P
R	O	O	D	I	D	P	R	E	C	I	S	E	C	E
P	R	V	P	U	F	F	E	R	R	T	I	N	U	N
B	P	S	M	O	T	P	M	Y	S	M	I	S	I	S
T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E	G	S	E	E
R	E	B	M	A	H	C	O	L	O	R	L	E	S	S

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4/20 Activation, Acute, Airway, Bronchitis, Chamber, Colorless, Cough, Dilate, Disease, Dispense, Dissolved, Doctor, Droplets, Drugs, Expiry, Gargle, Gases, Inhaler, Mist, Odorless, Precise, Prescription, Propellant, Puffer, Respiratory, Rinse, Room, Spray, Steroid, Symptoms, Temperature, Tests, Therapy, Trigger, Unit, Vapor, Volatile
Last Friday's Answer: Lithosphere
Visit Facebook.com/wonderwordsearch for 35th Anniversary giveaways!
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Rose scores 23, Bulls beat Bucks, 103-91



CHICAGO (AP)—Through three long years of knee surgeries and recoveries, the Chicago Bulls waited for this. And when the moment arrived, here is what Derrick Rose did.

He attacked. He played like an MVP, and if he keeps it up, the Bulls will be a tough team to knock out.

Rose had 23 points and seven assists in his first postseason game in three years. Jimmy Butler scored 25 points, and Chicago opened the playoffs with a 103-91 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night.

Rose was at his fearless best, driving hard to the rim early and mixing in three 3-pointers in the second half. He shot 9 of 16 and got serenaded with “MVP! MVP!” chants.

It was quite a night for a superstar point guard making his first playoff appearance since he tore a knee ligament in the 2012 playoff opener against Philadelphia. But if he had any thoughts about the long gap between playoff games, he kept them to himself.

“You can’t think that way when you’re on the floor and you’re in a battle,” Rose said. “When you step on the floor, all those thoughts have to be in the back of your mind. You have to have a clear mind. You’ve got to be very confident and believe in the work that you put in to get back on the floor. That’s all the things I was working on.”

“I only had three goals tonight to have fun, to have no expectations and to compete.”

Chicago hosts Game 2 on Monday.

Khris Middleton scored 18



AP
Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose, center, drives to the basket against Milwaukee Bucks forward Ersan Ilyasova, right, and guard Michael Carter-Williams during the second half in Game 1 of the NBA basketball playoffs Saturday, April 18, 2015, in Chicago.

points and Zaza Pachulia had 15. Michael Carter-Williams finished with nine on 4-of-13 shooting, and the sixth-seeded Bucks came up short after jumping from 15 wins to 41 this season.

“It’s the first playoff game for a lot of people on this team,” guard Jerryd Bayless said. “There were a lot of nerves and whatnot, but we got rid of it today and have a great opportunity on Monday.”

Butler showed the form that made him an All-Star for the first time this season. He set a playoff career high for points and had six assists.

Aaron Brooks provided a spark off the bench with 13 points, and the Bulls opened the

series on a winning note after fighting through injuries to finish 50-32.

The Bulls won despite committing 19 turnovers. They out-rebounded Milwaukee 52-41, with Pau Gasol grabbing 13 and Joakim Noah and rookie Nikola Mirotic 11 apiece.

The Bulls believe they are poised to make a run now that they finally have Rose playing in the postseason. The last time they had him for the duration of the playoffs, he capped an MVP season by leading them to the Eastern Conference finals in 2011. Chicago lost to Miami, and what happened after that is well documented.

The Bulls earned the No. 1 seed for the second straight year

in 2012, only to have Rose tear his ACL late in a lopsided playoff-opening win over Philadelphia. A torn meniscus in his right knee early last season cut short his comeback after he sat out a year.

Without him, the Bulls were a playoff team. But they were never a serious championship threat.

Now, they’re off to a good start.

Chicago took a 60-51 lead to the locker room after getting 17 points from Butler and 12 from Rose.

The star point guard headed to the sideline to a loud ovation with 1:37 left after throwing down a hard two-handed slam off a feed from Butler in transition and then scoring on a neat reverse layup that brought the

bench to its feet.

The Bucks pulled within three early in the third, but Rose hit three 3-pointers during a 15-7 response, including one that made it 77-66 with 4:33 left in the quarter.

“(Rose) is a special player,” Noah said. “It was special to watch him play like that. He was having a lot of fun out there on the court.”

Warriors 106, Pelicans 99

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry scored 34 points and Golden State went up big before holding off New Orleans in their playoff opener.

Klay Thompson added 21 points, and Draymond Green

and Andrew Bogut dominated down low as the Warriors looked every bit like the NBA’s top seed—at least for three quarters. They smothered Anthony Davis and the Pelicans with the league’s best defense, thrilling a gold shirt-wearing sellout crowd of 19,596.

The Warriors led by 15 after the first quarter, 18 at the half and 25 late in the third. The Pelicans pulled within four in the final minute behind Davis, who scored 20 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, to make the contest seem closer than it really was.

Game 2 of the series is Monday night in Oakland, where the Warriors have won 19 straight.

Wizards 93, Raptors 86, OT

In Toronto, Paul Pierce scored five of his 20 points in overtime, Nene had 12 points and 13 rebounds, and Washington beat Toronto in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

Pierce hit a 3-pointer, his fourth of the game, to begin the extra session, further tormenting a Raptors team he eliminated with Brooklyn in last year’s playoffs, then derided this week by saying, “I don’t feel they have the ‘It’ that makes you worried,” in an interview with ESPN.

Bradley Beal scored 16, while John Wall and Kevin Seraphin each had 10 for the Wizards.

Amir Johnson scored 18 points and DeMar DeRozan had 15 for the Raptors, who have yet to win the opening game of a first-round series in seven postseason appearances.

Toronto hosts Game 2 on Tuesday night.

Rockets 118, Mavericks 108

In Houston, James Harden had 24 points and Corey Brewer scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter to lead Houston past Dallas in Game 1 of the Western Conference series.

Brewer made three 3-pointers in about 3 minutes in the fourth to keep the Mavericks at bay. He added another three points when he made a layup and a free throw to give Houston a 109-95 lead with 3 minutes left.

Houston won the opener in the best-of-seven series after losing both home games last season in a first-round loss to Portland. Game 2 is Tuesday night in Houston.

Dirk Nowitzki had 24 points for the Mavericks. They are in the playoffs for the 14th time in the last 15 seasons.

Wiser LA Clippers prepared for 1st-round showdown with Spurs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs have faced almost every postseason obstacle imaginable during their 18-year run of steady success.

They’ve never had their team owner banned from the NBA for life in the middle of a playoff series, though.

“Yeah, we’ve had some challenges as a team,” Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin said. “And we’re tougher because of it.”

The Clippers hope their unique experience during last year’s supremely turbulent postseason gave them some of the tenacity necessary to survive a first-round meeting with the defending NBA champions. San Antonio visits Staples Center for Game 1 on Sunday night.

A year after Donald Sterling’s public exposure for racist comments led to his banishment in the middle of their first playoff run under coach Doc Rivers, the Clippers are healthy, hungry and free of off-court distractions.

They just hope they’re prepared for the daunting challenge

of knocking off the Spurs in the league’s most intriguing opening-round matchup.

“I think experience is the best teacher, and that was definitely tough,” Clippers guard Jamal Crawford said, recalling Sterling’s downfall last spring. “Playing the defending champs in the first round, that’s tough, but I think we’re up for the challenge.”

The Clippers are unlikely ever to face anything similar to the distractions they overcame last year to eliminate Golden State in a tense seven-game series. Sterling’s comments were made public early in the series, and the Clippers wore their warmup shirts inside-out before dumping them at center court in Oakland in a defiant display of unity against their team owner.

The Spurs survived their own seven-game slugfest with Dallas in the first round last spring, but lost just four more games on the way to the fifth championship for Tim Duncan and coach Gregg Popovich.

Both teams drew a brutal opening matchup thanks to San

Antonio’s loss to New Orleans on the final day of the regular season. The 55-win Spurs dropped all the way to the sixth seed, giving them a matchup with the third-seeded Clippers, who won 56 games and had the NBA’s third-best record.

“We’re starting on the road against one of the hottest teams playing right now,” Duncan said. “We’re comfortable playing on the road. We’ve been through just about every situation possible, so we have the capacity and we have the experience to be able to start a series on the road.”

While the Spurs have won five championships and reached nine conference finals in the last 18 years, the Clippers have won only four playoff series in their entire 45-year franchise history — two of those in the previous three years.

“We’re not going to have their experience. There’s no way,” Rivers said. “So what? It’s a clear advantage. They should have an advantage. They have an advantage over every team playing, not just us. They have

an advantage over everybody. They’ve won titles together, and that you cannot knock off.”

Here are some additional story lines in this marquee Western Conference matchup:

A SIXTH FROM SIXTH: If the Spurs are going to win their first repeat championship and sixth overall, they’ll have to do it as a sixth seed. Only the 1995 Houston Rockets have won a title from the No. 6 spot, something French guard Tony Parker knows well: “I watched the finals. I woke up at 3 in the morning to watch every game. It’s a great example. It’s been done before, (but) it’s not going to be an easy task.”

STREAKING HOME: The Clippers and the Spurs aren’t just two NBA powers who got an unfortunate draw: They’re both heading into the postseason with incredible momentum. Los Angeles has won 14 of its last 15 games, losing only to Golden State since March 15. San Antonio has won 14 of 16, including 11 straight before

that season-ending defeat.

HACK-A-DJ: DeAndre Jordan couldn’t make more than 40 percent of his free throws this season, and Popovich is well aware of the NBA rebounding champion’s shortcomings. San Antonio sent Jordan to the line 28 times in a loss to the Clippers in February, and Jordan won’t be surprised if such a strategy is used against him again. “There are situations in which we will probably do it,” San Antonio’s Manu Ginobili said.

KEEP COOL: The Spurs have been called for only 50 technical fouls in the last five years. The Clippers were called for 57 this season alone. Yet Rivers isn’t worried: “I think we should stay that way, because that’s who we are. We’re not quiet. We are an emotional team, so let’s not run from who we are. ... There’s a lot of ways you can win. The Spurs have perfected their way, and they’ve done it really well. I think every coach would love to be that way, and that’s not who we are.”

Bryant gets first hit as Cubs top Padres, 7-6



CHICAGO

(AP)—Kris

Bryant drew a standing ovation after hitting an RBI single for his first major league hit, and reached base five times Saturday as the Chicago Cubs beat the San Diego Padres 7-6 in 11 innings.

A day after the Cubs' prized prospect went 0 for 4 with three strikeouts in his Major League Baseball debut, Bryant went 2 for 3 with three walks.

Bryant let Wil Myers' bouncer leading off the game to kick off his glove at third base for his first major league error.

In the 11th, Bryant reached on an infield single against Craig Kimbrel (0-1), moving Anthony Rizzo to third with one out. Pinch-hitter David Ross walked to load the bases, bringing up Starlin Castro.

San Diego brought in Myers from center field as a fifth infielder and, with all five playing in, Castro singled past third baseman Will Middlebrooks.

Zac Rosscup (1-0) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings.



Chicago Cubs' Kris Bryant watches his RBI single during the fifth inning of an MLB baseball game against the San Diego Padres Saturday, April 18, 2015, in Chicago. Bryant's single was his first major league hit.

league save.

Dee Gordon went 5 for 5 with three RBIs for the Marlins, who lost their third straight and dropped to 3-9. Mat Latos (0-3) gave up two runs and six hits in five innings.

Pirates 6, Brewers 2

In Pittsburgh, Starling Marte homered for the second game in a row and drove in a career-high five runs. Milwaukee lost its fourth straight game and is off to their worst start since also going 2-9 in 2002.

Marte hit a two-run single to cap a three-run first inning that included an RBI double by Gregory Polanco. Marte's three-run fifth-inning homer made it 6-1.

Jeff Locke (2-0) tied a career-high by pitching eight innings, allowing one run. Kyle Lohse (0-3) was tagged for six runs and six hits in six innings and has lost his first three starts of a season for the first time in his 15-year MLB career.

Astros 4, Angels 0

In Houston, Dallas Keuchel (2-0) allowed two hits in six innings and combined with three relievers on a three-hitter.

Chad Qualls struck out the side in the seventh, Pat Neshek followed with a one-hit eighth and Luke Gregerson struck out his first two batters in a 1-2-3 ninth.

George Springer homered off C.J. Wilson (1-2) and Robbie Grossman hit a three-run drive off Mike Morin.

Angels batters struck out a season-high 13 times. Collin Cowgill was ejected after he was called out on strikes, ending the seventh.

Athletics 5, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Josh Reddick hit a three-run homer, and Jesse Hahn (1-1) and Jesse Chavez combined for a seven-hitter. Chavez pitched 3 2-3 innings for the save, completing Oakland's fifth shutout in its first 12 game.

Yordano Ventura (2-1) gave up all five runs in the fourth inning, right before hitting Brett Lawrie with what appeared to be a retaliatory pitch for an incident the previous night. Lawrie slid hard and late into second base and wiped out Alcides Escobar. The Royals shortstop sprained his left knee in the collision and said before Saturday night's game that he thought the slide was dirty.

The A's have outscored their opponents 47-1 in their six victories.

Phillies 5, Nationals 3

In Washington, Odubel Herrera had three hits and scored twice, Aaron Harang pitched six innings and the Philadelphia Phillies ended a six-game losing streak, beating Washington.

Freddy Galvis had two RBI singles for Philadelphia, which had scored 13 runs over its last six games.

Bryce Harper hit a long home run for Washington, which had won three straight. Ian Desmond added three hits, but the short-stop continued to struggle in the field, making his eighth error.

Harang (2-1) gave up three runs and seven hits. Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his third save.

Jordan Zimmermann (1-2) allowed two earned runs and four hits over 6 1-3 innings.

Cardinals 5, Reds 2

In St. Louis, Carlos Martinez pitched six strong innings and Jason Heyward hit his first home run, leading the St. Louis Cardinals over Cincinnati for their fourth straight win.

Zack Cozart homered for the

Reds, who have lost three in a row and six of seven. Billy Hamilton left in the eighth inning after beating out an infield single, and is day-to-day with groin irritation.

Martinez (1-0) gave up one run on three hits.

Trevor Rosenthal picked up his fourth save in as many opportunities. He struck out Joey Votto with two on to end the game.

Homer Bailey (0-1) allowed five runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings. He made his first start after opening the season on the dis-

abled list while recovering from surgery on a torn flexor tendon.

White Sox 12, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Jose Abreu hit a grand slam, Adam LaRoche added a three-run homer and four RBIs and the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers.

Chicago, which set a season high for runs, scored 11 runs in the third and fourth innings combined and collected a season-high 17 hits for the game. Abreu and LaRoche had three hits apiece, and Melky Cabrera matched a career high with four hits and knocked in two runs.

J.D. Martinez homered for Detroit, which lost for the second time in 11 games this season.

Chris Sale (2-0) cruised to the win, allowing two runs on four hits in six innings.

Anibal Sanchez (1-2) gave up nine runs on nine hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Indians 4, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Danny Salazar matched his career high with 10 strikeouts while pitching into the seventh inning of his season debut, leading the Cleveland Indians over Minnesota.

Roberto Perez had a home run among his three hits for the Indians, and Jason Kipnis stopped an 0-for-16 slide with a two-out, RBI single in the seventh that prompted the Twins to pull starter Phil Hughes (0-3).

Salazar (1-0) gave up two runs and six hits. Cody Allen pitched a hitless ninth for his third save in as many attempts.

Blue Jays 6, Braves 5, 10 innings

In Toronto, Josh Donaldson hit his third home run in two days, a leadoff shot in the 10th inning that lifted the Toronto Blue Jays

over the Atlanta Braves.

Donaldson's drive into the second deck of the left-field stands was his third hit of the afternoon. He hit 29 homers last year with Oakland, was traded to Toronto in the offseason and launched his first two home runs Friday night in an 8-7 loss.

Donaldson connected on the second pitch from Sugar Ray Marimon (0-1), handing Atlanta its first road defeat of the season.

Toronto reliever Brett Cecil (1-1) picked up the win after working a scoreless 10th.

Yankees 9, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Masahiro Tanaka (2-1) allowed two hits over seven innings, struck out eight and walked none in his best start this season.

Tanaka gave up a single to David DeJesus leading off the first, then retired 15 in a row before Brandon Guyer's double opening the sixth. David Carpenter and Brandon Pinder completed a three-hitter.

Brian McCann hit a go-ahead, two-run triple in the sixth off Jake Odorizzi (2-1), and Chris Young hit grand slam against Grant Balfour in a seven-run seventh.

Mets 5, Marlins 4

In New York, Jacob deGrom (2-1) struck out eight in seven shut-out innings, Travis d'Arnaud and Wilmer Flores homered and New York won its seventh straight, the Mets' longest since an eight-game run in June 2010.

Juan Lagares and Eric Campbell each had an RBI single to help the Mets (9-3) open their home schedule with six wins in a row, equaling the club record set in 1985. Alex Torre struck out Christian Yelich with a runner aboard for his first major

Merritt maintains edge through 3 rounds at RBC Heritage

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Troy Merritt felt the fear Saturday he experienced during his successful amateur career. The third-round leader at the RBC Heritage expects another healthy dose Sunday.

Merritt shot a 2-under 69 to take a three-stroke lead over defending champion Matt Kuchar, Brendon Todd and Kevin Kisner. Jim Furyk, No. 10 in the world, was four shots behind, with Masters champ Jordan Spieth another stroke back and eager to win another jacket - this one tartan.

"I was starting to feel the fear and being afraid, like I would when I was an amateur," Merritt said. "It's not a bad fear; it's the fear of being caught. And I think it's worked for me in the past."

Merritt finished at 14-under 199, two off the 54-hole scoring record set by Justin Leonard in his 2002 victory.

Todd made the big move with a 63, the day's lowest round. Kisner shot 67, and

Kuchar 68.

Furyk led a group another stroke behind after a 68, with Spieth five shots back, also following a 68.

Brice Garnett and Branden Grace were tied with Furyk in fifth. Garnett shot 65, and Grace 66. Bo Van Pelt was 9 under along with Spieth after a 67.

The pack of seven players at 8 under included 2013 winner Graeme McDowell, past British Open champ Louis Oosthuizen and former world No. 1 Luke Donald.

All of them will have to chase down Merritt, the 54-hole leader for the first time in his career. His best finish on the PGA Tour is a second in Memphis last year.

Merritt moved to the top and built a four-shot lead Friday with his course-record tying 61 at Harbour Town Golf Links. He lost nearly all of that on the front nine Saturday before regrouping.

Merritt explained how that

fear calms him and reminds him not to press and take chances to keep the edge. "You go out there, play solid golf, take care of your business and you see how the other guy is doing," he said.

That worked in the third round after Merritt put a ball in the water on the par-4 eighth hole - "It was a spectacular splash," he said—leading to a double bogey and reducing his lead to a stroke.

That's when Merritt regrouped and responded, making a birdie on the ninth to regain his rhythm.

"I was going to try and get the momentum back," he said. "And I was able to do that."

Spieth thrilled the gallery with his bounce-back 62 on Friday and it was a full house around the first tee when the 21-year-old Texan got started. But Spieth played more like he did in Thursday's opening 74 than in the second round, fighting to put shots close and make putts on the way to his 68.



In Hernandez murder case, question lingers: Why?

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP)— Aaron Hernandez had it all.

Fame, as a star tight end with the New England Patriots, which took him to the Super Bowl. Fortune, with a \$40 million NFL contract. Family, with a fiancée and baby daughter.

But his future? A lifetime behind bars after being convicted Wednesday of first-degree murder in the 2013 slaying of Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée.

After more than nine weeks of testimony, 135 witnesses and 439 exhibits, the question remains: Why did he do it?

Former NFL player David Nelson, who played with Hernandez at the University of Florida, summed up the thoughts of many Wednesday after the verdict.

"That's not the guy I knew. How could that happen. WHY did that happen," he wrote on Twitter.

Even the jurors, when asked how somebody with that much talent and that much money could throw it all away, said they didn't have an explanation.

"You'd have to ask the individual," juror Sean Traverse said during a post-conviction news conference as other jurors nodded their heads. Hernandez didn't testify at his trial.

Hernandez is also accused in two other shootings, a 2012 double homicide in Boston and a 2013 shooting in Florida. In both cases, he is accused of doing it for the most trivial of reasons.

In 2012, prosecutors say, Hernandez killed two men after one of them accidentally bumped into him at a club, causing Hernandez to spill his drink. Her-



andez has pleaded not guilty. In the Florida shooting, former friend Alexander Bradley has sued Hernandez, saying he was shot between the eyes after he and Hernandez argued and Bradley insulted him.

Those who knew him say Hernandez, now 25, was deeply affected by the death of his father when he was in high school. At 17, while at the University of Florida, Hernandez was accused of punching a bar employee who was trying to get him to pay for two drinks. Before the Patriots signed him in 2010, a scouting report ranked him at the bottom of the scale for social maturity.

Lloyd and Hernandez were introduced in 2012 by their girlfriends. The couples would spend time together on weekends and at family gatherings, occasionally going to the movies or a club. The two men would often peel off from the group and

smoke marijuana together.

Lloyd was described as a loving and devoted family member and friend, a hardworking landscaper who biked 20 miles roundtrip to his job, making it there on time at 7 a.m. On weekends, he had fun playing football in what a friend described as a Pop Warner league for adults.

There were some hints during the trial that not all was well between Hernandez and Lloyd but never an explanation of why.

Bradley testified that one time he was at Hernandez's home and Lloyd came in without saying hello. Bradley said Hernandez told him it was rude.

A friend of Lloyd's testified at trial that Hernandez seemed angry with Lloyd when he saw them at a club together the last Friday night of Lloyd's life. After Hernandez left the club, he was seen by a hotel valet with a gun tucked in his waistband, but then Hernandez left with Lloyd

retiring seven and had no walks. Toby Fleming lasted only three innings allowing six runs, one earned, on seven hits with three strikeouts and one walk.

Saralu, who was silent in the first two games, went 2-for-4 with one run and a triple, while Brel also batted 2-for-4 with one run scored. Rabauliman, 2-for-3, drove in two runs and scored twice, while Manny Sablan scored once on a 2-for-4 plate appearance.

the former won the scorecard tiebreak to rule the A Flight. Eleven-year-old Dong Yong Lee came in third with an 82.

Young Lee's 77 clinched the B Flight title, while Michael Sablan and Leo Gana-cias both had an 80 with Sablan placing second via the scorecard tiebreak.

Greg Sablan topped the C Flight with an 88, while Kim Dok Jun (91) and Joaquin Taitano (92) finished second and third.

Toshuyuki Mori bested Eddie K. Peter and Attorney General Edward Manibusan for the Senior Flight crown. Mori tallied 76 while Peter and Manibusan end up with 79 and 81.

Young Sook Kwon was the low gross winner in the Ladies Flight with an 82, while Jennifer Hegland was the low net champion with an 82 followed by the 85 of Kim Sun Suk.

The Top 3 finishers in each flight received \$500, \$300, and \$200.

Ferdie Cataluna (hole No. 3), Dong Yong Lee (hole No. 7), Palik Thomson (hole No. 13), and Ben Jones Jr. (hole No. 17) were the closest to the pin winners.

NMC president Sharon Hart thanked all golfers who participated, the sponsors who donated prizes, and the volunteers who helped organized the annual fundraising event.

AP
Former New England Patriots football player Aaron Hernandez listens as the guilty verdict is read during his murder trial, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at Bristol County Superior Court in Fall River, Mass.

it quiet. But there's no specific evidence that was the case.

At the Lloyd trial, Bradley said Hernandez was unreasonably suspicious, thinking helicopters were following him and being paranoid that his conversations could be recorded. Bradley was not allowed to say that in front of jurors but was allowed to testify that Hernandez had a hard time trusting anyone.

Prosecutors did not have to prove a motive or explain why Hernandez did it, just that he did. William McCauley, the lead prosecutor on the case, told jurors in his closing arguments that there was a reason, but it just might not be a valid one.

"Whether it's a good motive or a bad motive," McCauley said, "he believed he could kill Odin Lloyd and nobody would ever believe he was involved."

DANIEL

From Page 28

nightcap, 68-62.

The Daniel-Samuel tiff was a top-meets-bottom affair with the latter threatening the unbeaten team and No. 1 finisher in the elimination round after moving within 4 points, 60-64. Daniel led right from the get-go and padded its advantage to as much as 16 in the second half, but played relax past the halfway mark of the final frame allowing Samuel to inch closer.

Jerome Reyes' 6 straight points brought the deficit to 4, but time was not on Samuel's side, as there were only 54 seconds left in the match and Daniel wasted some clock to hang on to the lead. A long jumper and two free throws from Angelo Hernaez sealed it for Daniel.

Hernaez top-scored for Danile with his 28 points, while Andrew Palino and Reli Del Rio also finished in twin digits, adding 12 and 10, respectively.

Reyes led all scorers with his 29 points, while Ronnie Guevarra chipped in 22 for the eliminated Samuel.

Reyes and Hernaez traded baskets in the first half with the former hitting 15 against the latter's 12. However, Hernaez got more support from his teammates, while only two other players scored for Samuel, allowing Daniel to take a 36-27 halftime lead. Guevarra and Jing Bordon had 10 and 2 points for Samuel in the first half, while five players combined for Daniel's 24 other points.

In second half, Hernaez and Reyes continued to lead their respective teams, but Daniel still had the last say, holding off Samuel's comeback bid.

In the first game, Gideon ousted Ezekiel to force a semis

showdown with top-ranked Daniel.

Joel Buniag canned the go-ahead basket in the closing minute and Ezekiel failed to produce in the ensuing plays to enable Gideon escape with the 2-point win.

Gideon stole the victory despite falling behind in the first half, 23-26. Bradley Demapan kept Gideon afloat in the first 20 minute of play, hitting 10 of his 15 points in that canto. Buniag chipped in 5 and was only the second player on Gideon's side to knock in at least two field goals.

The veteran player added 5 more markers in the second half, including his game-winning jumper, while Allan David fired 13 of his 15 points in the final frame to help Gideon's cause. Vhoie Francia also finished with 15 markers to lead the eliminated Ezekiel.

Meanwhile, the two remaining semis seats will be at stake tonight with third-ranked Isaiah and fifth-seeded Jeremiah battling for the third Final Four berth at 6:30pm. In the second game at 8pm, No. 2 finisher Caleb takes on No. 7 Joshua for the last semis slot.

First Game

Gideon 53 — Demapan 15, David 15, Buniag 10, Borja 6, Sablan 3, Gonzales 2, Omampo 2.

Ezekiel 51 — Francia 15, Surima 11, Perez 11, Alcantara 4, Irog 4, Eubanks 3, Rebong 1.

Scoring by halves: 23-26, 53-51.

Second Game

Daniel 68 — Hernaez 28, Palino 12, Del Rio 10, Nunez 8, Pablo 6, Chris 2, Del Carmen 2.

Samuel 62 — Reyes 29, Guevarra 22, Ponce 8, Bordon 2, Badal 2.

Scoring by halves: 36-27, 68-62.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	7	4	.636	—
Baltimore	6	5	.545	1
Tampa Bay	6	6	.500	1½
Toronto	6	6	.500	1½
New York	5	6	.455	2

Central Division

Detroit	9	2	.818	—
Kansas City	8	3	.727	1
Chicago	4	6	.400	4½
Cleveland	4	6	.400	4½
Minnesota	4	7	.364	5

West Division

Oakland	6	6	.500	—
Houston	5	6	.455	½
Los Angeles	5	6	.455	½
Texas	5	7	.417	1
Seattle	4	7	.364	1½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	3	.750	—
Atlanta	7	4	.636	1½
Washington	5	7	.417	4
Philadelphia	4	8	.333	5
Miami	3	9	.250	6

Central Division

St. Louis	7	3	.700	—
Chicago	6	4	.600	1
Cincinnati	5	6	.455	2½
Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	2½
Milwaukee	2	9	.182	5½

West Division

Los Angeles	8	3	.727	—
Colorado	7	4	.636	1
San Diego	7	5	.583	1½
Arizona	6	6	.500	2½
San Francisco	4	9	.3085	

RBC HERITAGE SCORES

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina
(AP)—Scores Saturday in the RBC Heritage, a US PGA Tour event at 7,101-yard, par-71 Harbour Town Golf Links:

THIRD ROUND

Troy Merritt	69-61-69	—199
Brendon Todd	73-66-63	—202
Kevin Kisner	68-67-67	—202
Matt Kuchar	68-66-68	—202
Brice Garnett	72-66-65	—203
Brandon Grace	70-67-66	—203
Jim Furyk	71-64-68	—203
Bo Van Pelt	69-68-67	—204
Jordan Spieth	74-62-68	—204
Luke Donald	73-66-66	—205
Brendon de Jonge	70-68-67	—205
Justin Thomas	70-67-68	—205
Louis Oosthuizen	69-67-69	—205
Morgan Hoffmann	68-68-69	—205
John Merrick	69-65-71	—205
Graeme McDowell	66-69-70	—205
Ian Poulter	69-70-67	—206
Russell Knox	75-64-67	—206
Matt Every	66-70-70	—206
Jason Kokrak	72-70-65	—207
Jason Dufner	74-67-66	—207
Pat Perez	69-71-67	—207
Sean O'Hair	70-67-70	—207
Lucas Glover	70-67-70	—207
Kevin Streelman	71-65-71	—207
Jerry Kelly	71-66-70	—207
Anirban Lahiri	73-69-66	—208
Brandt Snedeker	77-64-67	—208
Cameron Smith	68-67-67	—208
Chris Stroud	72-67-69	—208
Bryce Molder	74-64-70	—208
Ben Martin	69-69-70	—208
Vijay Singh	71-67-70	—208
John Peterson	72-65-71	—208
Blake Adams	72-65-71	—208
Stewart Cink	70-67-71	—208
Robert Allenby	71-71-67	—209
William McGirt	71-70-68	—209
Bill Haas	71-70-68	—209
Brian Harman	75-65-69	—209
Martin Flores	73-67-69	—209
Freddie Jacobson	71-68-70	—209
Steven Bowditch	74-68-68	—210
Robert Streb	74-68-68	—210
Billy Horschel	72-69-69	—210
Alex Cejka	70-71-69	—210
Brian Stuard	73-68-69	—210
Webb Simpson	71-70-69	—210
Carl Pettersson	72-69-69	—210
Sangmoon Bae	67-73-70	—210
Joost Luiten	69-71-70	—210
Zac Blair	70-69-71	—210
Hudson Swafford	70-69-71	—210
Tom Watson	72-70-69	—211
Danny Lee	71-71-69	—211
Ricky Barnes	69-72-70	—211
a-Scott Vincent	70-70-71	—211
George McNeill	72-67-72	—211
Ben Crane	72-67-72	—211
James Hahn	70-69-72	—211
Andres Gonzales	70-72-70	—212
Martin Laird	72-70-70	—212
Charley Hoffman	71-70-71	—212
Scott Brown	74-67-71	—212
Jim Renner	69-69-74	—212
Charl Schwartzel	72-70-71	—213
Daniel Summerhays	70-70-73	—213
Aaron Baddeley	70-67-76	—213
Chris Kirk	71-70-73	—214
Scott Langley	68-70-76	—214
Jason Bohn	73-68-74	—215
Charlie Beljan	69-72-74	—215
Daniel Berger	72-68-75	—215
Ryo Ishikawa	71-70-75	—216
Nick Taylor	72-69-77	—218
Boo Weekley	74-67-77	—218

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Haus notches first win

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Blue Haus entered the win column in the U20 division of the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League following an 88-65 rout of Gilas last Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Blue Haus dictated the tempo of the game early to cruise to victory and snap its two-game losing skid. Gilas remained winless in three matches with one game left (against Armatech on April 25) in its regular season campaign.

A 27-9 scoring run in the first quarter paved the way for Blue Haus' demolition of Gilas. John Ray Grilles anchored Blue Haus' hot start, as he sizzled for three triples in the opening canto. He kicked off Blue Haus' scoring outburst with 5 straight points and capped the first period with 10 consecutive points and back-to-back 3-pointers to

finish the quarter with 17 markers or nearly double than Gilas' total output. Gilas hit only four baskets in the first frame and it had no player scoring more than one basket in the opening 10 minutes of play.

In the second canto, Grilles took a long breather, but Blue Haus had no problem keeping its big lead, as Dixon Kwon and Ignacio Borja stepped in to continue what the former started. Borja and Kwon made all but one of Blue Haus' eight field goals in the second half and combined for 17 of the team's 19 markers to stretch their lead to 26 at the break, 46-20. Aaron Pamintuan logged the other 2 points for Blue Haus.

Gilas finally broke into double figures in the second half with its 11 points, however only two players nailed more than one field goal for the

Jay Diyco-led squad, allowing Keoni Chariton's wards to pull away further.

Behind by a big margin, Gilas tried to mount a comeback and had little success, as it outgunned Blue Haus for the first time in the third period, 31-21. J.P. Rivera canned three triples at the start of the second half and drew some help from Ryan Esmundo and Chico Bondoc to bring the deficit down to 16, 51-67, entering the final canto.

Gilas then moved within 12 early in the fourth before Kwon and Ignacio alternately hit baskets to put the game away for good for Blue Haus.

Borja and Grilles top-scored for Blue Haus with 24 points each, while Kwon contributed 20. Bondoc led Gilas with his 16 markers.

Blue Haus is in fourth place in the five-team field behind the unbeaten Sonics (3-0), Ar-

matech (1-0), and the Ol'Aces (1-1). The Sonics will have their last regular season game in the round-robin elimination this Wednesday when they take on Armatech at 8pm. Also set for Wednesday is the LBT Appraisal-Old'Aces tiff in the Masters division at 6:30pm.

Blue Haus 88 – Grilles 24, Borja 24, Kwon 20, Pamintuan 8, Feria 4, Manalili 4, Benavente 2.

Gilas 65 – Bondoc 16, Esmundo 14, Rivera 14, Espinosa 11, Diyco 6, Igrobay 3, Rangamar 2, Raquero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-9, 46-20, 67-51, 88-65.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Ignacio Borja goes for an alley-oop shot off a pass from Dixon Kwon during the fourth quarter of their U20 division game against Gilas in the UFO caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



MHS trounces Mt. Carmel in softball



JON PEREZ

Marianas High School pitcher Ursula Lizama, right, throws a pitch to Mt. Carmel School batter Karleen Reyes in their game in the MISO fast-pitch softball last Friday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER



Jennifer Dela Cruz homered and Ursula Lizama pitched a complete game to power Marianas High School to a 17-6 win over Mt. Carmel School in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic School Organization Girls Fast-pitch Softball League last Friday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Dela Cruz blasted an inside-the-park round-tripper, a two-run shot, that was part of the Lady Dolphins' six-run third inning barrage. Her four-bagger also drove in Niannalyn Iguel.

The MHS left fielder had three RBIs, including an RBI triple in the bottom of the first,

in a 2-for-3 plate appearance. Lizama and Sabrina Pangelinan went 2-for-2 with the latter scoring twice and had one RBI while the latter had a double and a triple.

Pangelinan pitched a complete game for the defending champions allowing one earned run on six hits with two strikeouts and six walks.

MHS capitalized on MCS' 17 errors as the Lady Knights' fielders were slow to react with their relay throws.

MCS, staring at a 13-3 deficit and needing to score in the top of the fifth to continue the game, made three runs.

Luisa Camacho had a leadoff single, Masami Sato grounded out to first for the first out while advancing the former to second. Camacho stole home for the Lady Knights' first run in the fifth.

Grace Seo was hit by pitch but Jennifer Villagomez was out on a 4-3 putout play. Seo, who stole third, reached home plate on a Jan Travilla single.

MCS pitcher Amalina Evangelista drove in Travilla with a double and she stole third to move into scoring position.

Evangelista, with two outs, was left stranded on base after Lizama forced Komi Romoloto to an infield fly that was caught by Jodeen Fredrick at third base.

The reigning champions are hoping to win a third straight softball title. They defeated Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays, 9-7, last year to complete their back-to-back title bid.

Action continues at 4pm today with the Lady Knights taking on the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus.

\$7K raised in Mariana Resort Carnival

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER



A total of \$7,000 was raised during Mariana Resort and Spa's 37th Anniversary Marpi Carnival held last April 11 as a fundraising event for the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc.

Mariana Resort and Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh and other hotel staff presented the check to SLLBI president Ben Jones Sr., who was accompanied by other officials and volunteers of the Little League program.

Jones said officials, volunteers, and all teams that are playing in the 2015 SLL season are grateful for the generous donation made by Mariana Resort.

"This will go a long way for our kids. Now, I have to sit down with the Saipan Little League board to discuss what to do with the money,"

said Jones.

Jones added the money would likely be used by the Saipan All-Star team to augment the cost of their trip to the CNMI District tournament to be hosted by Rota.

However, there were reports that Rota and Tinian failed to renew their respective Little League charters.

If Rota and Tinian failed to field a team, Saipan would represent the CNMI in the 2015 Asia Pacific and Middle East regional tournament to be held at the Guangzhou Huaxia Technical College in Guangzhou, China.

Cavanagh also thanked all who donated and participated in the fundraising event, which was Mariana Resort's way of giving back to the community that had supported them for the past 37 years.

She added the donation is their way of giving back to the community that had supported them for the past 37 years.

The event raised more than \$6,000, which were proceeds

from the carnival and golf tournament, but Mariana Resort rounded up the amount to \$7,000.

Delta Airlines, Joeten Motors, Pacific Insurance, Nike, Marpac, Charles Cepeda of Pacific Trading Co., D&Q Saipan, Coca-Cola, Mobil, Ben Babauta of the Tournament of Champions, Rick Kautz of Kautz Glass, Korea Hardware, Fiesta Resort and Kanoa Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, JET Holding Co., Pacific Islands Club Saipan, QQ Car Rental, Takagi and Associates, T-Galleria, and Fred Salabeya are some of the sponsors of the event.

Mariana Resort and Spa property manager Charlene Babauta, Mariana Country Club operations manager Palik Thomson and Lito Parulan, chef William Retardo and staff Robert Bansil joined Cavanagh in the check presentation.

SLLBI secretary Piding Tenorio and statistician A.J. Murig were also present.



JON PEREZ

Mariana Resort and Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh, fifth right, hands over a check to Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. president Ben Jones last Friday at the Mariana Resort and Spa lobby.



**Rose scores
23, Bulls beat
Bucks, 103-91**

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**Blue Haus
notches
first win**

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28 MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SBL crown within Falcons' reach



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Falcons coach Doru Camacho, center, exchanges high-fives with Alex Benavente, left, and Lamar Iguel during Game 3 of their best-of-five title series against the GSM Brewers in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Falcons team manager Doru Camacho banked on the steady arms of Peter Lieto and A.J. Lizama and the pitching duo delivered in Game 2 of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League finals

Lieto tossed four innings in relief, two in shutout, while starter Lizama went 4-for-5 in a 9-6 triumph by the Falcons over the GSM Brewers last Friday night at the Francisco M. "Tan

Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Falcons, who are aiming for its first title since winning the 2007 season, could wrap up the best-of-five championship series tonight and foil the Brew-

ers' back-to-back title bid.

Lieto was tagged with two earned runs on three hits while fanning five and walking three. He thwarted the Brewers' comeback hopes in the bottom of the ninth.

Lieto, in the bottom of the ninth, forced Brewers lead-off batter Jimmy Brel to fly out to right fielder Frankie Lieto for the first out, but walked Jun Rabauliman, who stole second and third to move into scoring position.

Rabauliman scored on a Ty-

rone Omar RBI single while Nokki Saralu walked. Manny Sablan singled to load the bases keeping the Brewers' chances of forcing an extra inning or win the game by walk-off.

Lenny Sablan came in to pinch run for Sablan and Byron Kaipat had a sacrifice fly to left fielder Goru Iskawa to drive in Omar.

Lieto ended the Brewers' hopes when he forced second

**See SBL on
Page 26**

Teenager rules NMC Foundation golf



JON PEREZ

Championship Flight winner Jun Seok Kim, left, receives his prize from Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart in the awards banquet of the 12th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament last Saturday at the Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Teen Jun Seok Kim bested a strong field of veteran par-busters to rule Championship Flight of the 12th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort.

The 14-year-old fired a 4-over-par 76 for a one-shot win over Marianas Golfers Association president J.J. Atalig's 77.

The Saipan International School eighth grader, who will

See NMC on Page 26

Daniel, Gideon enter semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

Daniel and Gideon bagged the first two semis berths in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League after pulling off close wins last Friday night at the Gilbert C.

Ada Gymnasium.

Gideon clinched the first Final Four seat after edging Ezekiel in the opening play-off game, 53-51, while the defending champion Daniel prevailed over Samuel in the

**See DANIEL on
Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel's Reli Del Rio, left, escapes past Ronnie Guevarra for a fast-break layup during the second half of their playoff game in the 4th Genesis Cup last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.